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FBIS-NES-88-019 CONTENTS *29 January 1988*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 January Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudis, Syrians Comment on Arab League Session *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Jan]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

AL-HAWADITH Interviews Yasir 'Arafat *[29 Jan]* 3
PLO Official Discusses Government-in-Exile *[London AL-TADAMUN 23 Jan]* 7
PLO Figure Denounces Mubarak Call for 'Truce' *[Algiers VOP]* 10
PLO's Bishop Khuri on 'Uprising,' Shultz *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 10
PFLP, PFLP-GC Attack Sinyurah U.S. Visit *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 10
PFLP Denies Fomenting Disturbances in Jordan *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 10
Appeal on Continuing Strike, Boycotting Paper *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 11
  Strike Hours Defined *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 11
Al-Quds Radio Notes Kidnappings, 'Tension' 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Joint Press Communique With Congo Issued *[EL MOUDJAHID 21 Jan]* 12

Chad

Further on Drought Control Summit Meeting 13
  Habre, Mali's Traore Hold Talks 13
  Summit Opens 28 Jan 13

Egypt

Mubarak Outlines Expectations From U.S. 14

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks on Unity, 'Awareness' 14

Morocco

Mauritanian Minister Arrives For Visit 27 Jan 19
  Delivers Message to King 19

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Comments on Ties With Egypt, Ethiopia *[London AL-MAJALLAH 27 Jan]* 20
Further on Visit by Libyan Military Delegation 22
  Received by Taj al-Din 22
  Thanked for 'Military Support' 22

Anya Nya II Group Unites With SPLA-SPLM *[Radio SPLA]* 22
  Garang Statement on 'Unity' *[Radio SPLA]* 23
Al-Banna Says Army Capable of Taking Kapoeta 24
Army Source Denies Rebels Surrounding Torit 24
'Foreign Backing' Increases Rebel Activities 24
SPLA Radio Reports Land Mine Attacks, Casualties 24

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Decree Issued on 1988 General Budget 25

PDRY

Al-Dali Holds News Conference on Palestinians 25

Saudi Arabia

Turkish Claims on Forces for Kingdom Denied 25

IRAQ

President Warns of Iranian Moves Against GCC 26
Dailies Assail Syrian Stands on Gulf War 26
Reportage on Visit by CSSR Minister Luhovy 27
  Meets With Oil Minister 27
  Received by Ramadan 27
  Signs Cooperation Agreement 27
  Leaves Baghdad 29 Jan 28
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities 28
  Communique No 3,002 28
  'Large Maritime Target' Hit 28

ISRAEL

Novik To Hold Talks With Mubarak Aides in U.S. 29
Shamir 'Optimistic' on U.S. Mideast Role 29
Peres Aides Show Displeasure at Shultz Remarks 29
Shultz Plan Faces Opposition in Likud, Alignment *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 29 Jan]* 29
Reagan Mideast Policy Seen Not Leading to Peace *[AL-FAJR 27 Jan]* 30
Inner Cabinet Does Not Discuss U.S. Peace Moves 30
Basyuni Conveys Messages to Shamir, Peres 30
Shamir Rejection of Mubarak Initiative Probed *[AL-FAJR 28 Jan]* 31
Mubarak Angry Over Anti-Semitic Article *[MA'ARIV 28 Jan]* 31
Basyuni Allowed To Visit Palestinian Detainees *['AL HAMISHMAR 29 Jan]* 32
Peres on Mubarak Plan, Peace Process, Elections 32
Romanian Foreign Minister Continues Visit 37
  Shamir Requests Mediation 37
  Peres, Totu Hold Talks 37
Senior Diplomat Meets With Soviets in Europe *[THE JERUSALEM POST 28 Jan]* 38
Rabin on Territories Policy, Political Solution *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 29 Jan]* 38
Further on Incidents, Policy in Territories 38
  IDF Releasing 100 Detainees 38
  IDF Soldiers Put on Trial 39
  Roundup of 28 Jan Incidents 39
  Nabulus Officials Resign 39
  Arrests, Curfews in W. Bank 39
  Restraints in Gaza To Be Eased 40
  Gaza Muslim Activists Detained *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 28 Jan]* 40
  Propaganda Seized in Haifa 40
  Rioters Surveyed on Motives *[DAVAR 28 Jan]* 40

Government 'Paralyzed', Unable To Act on Unrest *[HA'ARETZ 28 Jan]* 41
'Breaking Arms, Spirits' No Solution to Unrest *[AL-FAJR 24 Jan]* 42
IDF 'Irregularities' To Be Investigated *[THE JERUSALEM POST 28 Jan]* 43
Hebrew Quarterly on Palestinian Issues Published *['AL HAMISHMAR 25 Jan]* 44
Gen Lahd Reviews SLA Activity, Future Plans *[HADASHSOT 27 Jan]* 44
Next 3 Years IDF Shortfall Seen at $600 Million *[HA'ARETZ 27 Jan]* 45

JORDAN

King Husayn on Dialogue With PLO, 'Uprising' 46
Talks With Palestinians Resume 28 Jan 46
    Al-Hurani Comments *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 46
Reportage on Visit to Amman by French Minister 46
    Interviewed on Middle East *[THE JERUSALEM STAR 28 Jan-3 Feb]* 46
    Talks With Counterpart 48
    Received by Al-Rifa'i 48
    Announces Increased Aid *[Paris]* 49
U.S. Warned Against Further Pressuring Arabs *[JORDAN TIMES 28-29 Jan]* 49
U.S. Policy 'Prolonging' Mideast 'Tragedy' *[AL-RA'Y 28 Jan]* 49

LEBANON

Further Reportage on Schray Kidnapping 51
    Syria Working for Release *[VOL]* 51
    Group Claims Responsibility *[VOL]* 51
    Eyewitness Claims Sighting *[VOH]* 51
Purpose of Iranians' Mission Discussed *[RFL]* 51
9 February Attacks Syrian Center; Casualties *[RFL]* 51
Resistance Fires at Israeli Settlement 51
Resistance Claims 15 Casualties in Attack 52
Israeli Warplanes Carry Out 'Mock Raids' *[RFL]* 52
    Boats Fire Flares *[VOL]* 52
Briefs 52
    Egyptian Envoy Departs *[RFL]* 52

SYRIA

Al-Shar' To Visit Teheran 'Within Next 2 Days' 53
Interior Minister, Iranian Envoy Discuss Ties *[IRNA]* 53
Khaddam Receives Hungary's Gyula Horn 28 Jan 53
TISHRIN Cited on Reasons For Mubarak Tour 53
AL-BA'TH Views Gulf War, Pan-Arab Unity 53

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Reports to 27 Jan PDPA Plenum 55
Najibullah Addresses Afro-Asian Writers Symposium 56
'Extremist' Attack Reported in Faryab Province 60

Bangladesh

30 Injured in Clashes in Rajshahi 28 Jan *[Delhi]* 60
    100 Reportedly Hurt *[Delhi]* 60
Student Boycott To Mourn Chittagong Deaths *[Delhi]* 60
Ershad Returns From Rome Visit 28 Jan 61
Comoros Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks 61

India

Ramachandran Wins Vote; Police Charge Assembly 61
    Concern for Tamil Nadu 62
    Opposition Demands Dismissal 62
Gandhi Says Tripura Insurgency To Be 'Crushed' 62
Hindus Attack TV Center To Protest Program *[AFP]* 62
West Bengal Chief Rejects Gurkha Leader Demand 63
Policeman Killed by Punjab 'Terrorists' 29 Jan 63
'Extremists' Kill 1, Injure 1 in Tripura 63
PATRIOT Interviews CPI Leader Farooqi *[11 Jan]* 63
Burma Seeks To Buy Industrial Equipment 65

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks at Friday Prayers 65
Foreign Minister Concludes European Tour 66
    Stops Over in Rome 66
    Returns to Tehran 67
Deputy Foreign Minister Visits Thailand *[cross-reference]* 67
Soviet Economic Delegation Arrives for Talks 67
Relief Committee Assists Lebanese Villagers 67
Paper Urges 'Show of Anger' Against U.S. Forces *[KEYHAN 23 Jan]* 68
Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue 69
    Communique No 3,095 69
    Battalion 'Wiped Out' 69
    Guards Corps Statement 69

Pakistan

UN's Cordovez Continues Talks With Officials 69
    Discusses Issue With Ziaul Haq 69
Junejo on Reasons for Nuclear Power Program 70
India's Leasing Soviet Submarines Criticized 70
Indian Citizenship for Hindus in Jammu Opposed 70

Sri Lanka

LTTE 'Terrorists' Attack Police Station 71
Indian Spokesman Denies LTTE Killed 8 Soldiers 71
Paper Views Challenge Faced by Indian Force *[DAILY NEWS 18 Jan]* 71
'Narco Terrorists' Increase Smuggling Activities 72

29 January Middle East and South Asia Review

LD291430 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

An anonymous caller speaking on behalf of the Revolutionary Justice Organization claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of West German national Ralph Schray, in a telephone call to Voice of Lebanon radio. A Syrian source cited by the station indicated that Damascus considers the abduction a violation of the Syrian security plan in West Beirut and warned that the perpetrators "will not escape punishment." DPA noted that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has informed the FRG Government that he wants to provide "all conceivable assistance" for the release of Schray and fellow German hostage Rudolph Cordes. The agency also reported that an Iranian delegation has been "actively involved" in trying to obtain Schray's release since arriving in Beirut's southern suburbs 2 days ago.

Outside Lebanon, lawyers representing 'Abbas Hamadah, currently facing charges in the FRG, offered to mediate with kidnappers of the two German men, according to DPA. Hamadah's brother, reported to have given the order to kidnap Schray, "recently" left Tehran and travelled to Beirut, the agency noted.

Israel

Political Developments—Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres expressed "great personal dissatisfaction" with the recent position set out by Secretary of State George Shultz, according to which the United States prefers autonomy to an international conference, YEDI'OT AHARONOT reported. In contrast, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated he was "happy" that the United States "has joyfully welcomed our ideas," and was "optimistic" over increased U.S. involvement in the peace process, according to IDF radio.

Meanwhile, Peres and Shamir each received a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Jerusalem television reported. In his message to the prime minister, Mubarak expressed "reservations" about Shamir's new plan of accelerated autonomy. Jordan's King Husayn has also rejected Shamir's proposal for resuming the autonomy negotiations, HADASHOT noted.

Territories—The IDF judge advocate-general has ordered military police investigations into incidents in which troops committed "blatant irregularities," THE JERUSALEM POST reported. Jerusalem radio noted that several soldiers who beat Arabs "without reason" have been put on trial.

On the security situation, IDF radio reported that soldiers fired tear gas to disperse demonstrators in Nabulus following Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev's tour of the area. Only minor disturbances were reported in the Gaza Strip, according to Jerusalem radio. The station also reported that the curfew was lifted from the Jabalyah refugee camp and that approximately 100 Gazans detained during recent disturbances were released.

Jordan

Relations With PLO—King Husayn declared that there is a "ready opportunity" to resume dialogue with the PLO, adding that Jordan would "welcome" such a move, Amman television reported. The king also stated that Jordan would like the PLO to be invited to the proposed international Middle East peace conference, while maintaining that in order to attend the PLO would have to "accept UN Security Council Resolutions Nos. 242 and 338, renounce violence," and show readiness to discuss the Palestinian problem "from all its aspects." He described as "regrettable" the fact that the United States is adopting a "hesitant" position toward Middle East peace endeavors.

Meanwhile, official talks continued between Prime Minister Zayd al Rifa'i and a visiting PLO delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, Radio Monte Carlo reported. A member of the Palestinian delegation told the station the talks were an effort at politically "utilizing" the "popular uprising" in the occupied territories.

PFLP Denial—The PFLP issued a statement in Damascus "categorically denying" Jordanian accusations that the PFLP attempted to foment disturbances in Jordan, calling the allegations "totally baseless," Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi jets raided a large maritime target off the Iranian coast 29 January, according to an Iraqi military spokesman's statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

In ground action, Iraqi forces killed 290 Iranians and destroyed several tanks and vehicles in repelling an Iranian advance in the I Corps northern sector, Voice of the Masses radio announced in a communique. On the Iranian side, Tehran radio reported that IRGC troops "destroyed" an Iraqi company in a series of operations in western Mehran region.

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Moscow with a message for the Soviet leaders from King Fahd, Riyadh radio reported. TASS noted that the message concerned the Palestinian "uprising" and the Iran-Iraq war.

Sudan

The SPLM/SPLA and Anya Nya II opposition movements have united, according to a statement broadcast by the clandestine SPLA radio. Asserting that the differences that existed between the two movements were the result of the Khartoum regime's efforts to divide and rule, the statement declared that Anya Nya II has been "completely integrated" into the SPLM/SPLA.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudis, Syrians Comment on Arab League Session

PM281603 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jan 88 pp 1, 2

[Rifqi al-Tayyib Report: "Exclusive Statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by Saud al-Faysal, Tariq 'Aziz, and Al-Shar': Time Has Come To Convene International Conference"]

[Excerpt] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Arab League Council has concluded its extraordinary session, which began on the evening of the day before yesterday, to discuss the current situation in the occupied territories. The Council renewed support for the Palestinian people's uprising, their legitimate right to confront Zionist terrorism and violence, and their right to establish an independent state under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. A ministerial committee has been formed to formulate a joint working plan on implementing Arab resolutions relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict and to lend impetus to the process of a just and comprehensive peace in order to convene an international peace conference.

Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal has declared that the session has endorsed a number of important resolutions which focus generally on backing the uprising in order to ensure its continuity, in view of the great appreciation expressed at the session and by the entire Arab nation for the uprising, which has changed the present situation in the region and constitutes a qualitative change in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT prior to his departure from Tunis at the conclusion of the session's proceedings, Al-Faysal said: The Saudi Arabian Kingdom hopes that such resolutions within this framework, and any subsequent practical measures at the Arab level, will play an influential role in supporting the Palestinian struggle, enabling this blessed uprising to achieve its objective and fulfill the Palestinian people's aspirations toward restoring their rights and freedom.

In reply to a question from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's view of the call for convening an international conference to resolve the Palestinian problem, he said: The Arab states have formed a ministerial committee to study this issue. Obviously, the Kingdom believes more than ever in the need to convene such a conference, especially after the Amman summit endorsed the idea of an international conference as a fundamental basis for a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem. This heroic uprising provides clear, practical, and plain proof that the time has come to work within this framework. This is what the Arab states must do by making appropriate contacts in order to convene such a conference as soon as possible.

In a similar statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz said: The Arab nation has come out of this meeting stronger than ever; its states have pledged to carry out effective political activities at the international level in support of the Palestinian cause, which is the crux of the conflict in the region. A proposal has been endorsed to form a followup committee comprising seven Arab foreign ministers to help the PLO define practical political plans at the international level. We believe that such resolutions are both positive and practical.

In reply to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's question about whether the Arab states have endorsed the provision of $100 million in aid to support the uprising in these circumstances, he said: The Arab states have pledged to provide both material and moral support for the uprising. A number of states provided aid before and during this meeting. For instance, this morning Iraq informed UNRWA Commissioner General Georgio Giacomelli of its decision to provide $3 million in aid. The Arab states will continue providing such support. Some Arab states have opened the door to popular contributions and we shall continue these efforts. I believe it is our duty to provide the uprising with all it needs, which might reach or exceed such a figure. The important thing is to continue providing the uprising with all its needs.

PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that during the meeting the Arab states pledged to fulfill their commitments to the uprising fund and to provide all forms of financial support for our people in the occupied territories.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' commented on the contradiction in the Arab position toward Egypt at the meeting. He said that there was an Arab admission that what is required from the Egyptian Government is the severance of all relations with the Israeli enemy, since severing such relations would confirm Egypt's Arab role in support of the Palestinian cause. We believe that the Egyptian Government feels great embarrassment at its relations with Israel, which is carrying out the fiercest type of repression and expulsion against our Arab Palestinian people inside the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

AL-HAWADITH Interviews Yasir 'Arafat

PM290941 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 29 Jan 88 pp 22-24

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, by Shirbil Zughayb on 23 January in Tunis]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: It seems that the Palestinian situation is witnessing a new birth and that everything on the ground is beginning to move. There are those who maintain that the PLO and Abu 'Ammar have tried to catch up with the uprising, that the new generation is a rejectionist one, and that many fundamental things must change. What is this new situation?

'Arafat: There is an Egyptian proverb which says: "They found nothing wrong with the rose, so they claimed it was too red." That sums up the attitude of some of the organs and establishments which, like parrots, keep repeating what the Israeli Zionist enemy machine and those behind it say. At the beginning of the uprising, some people claimed that it was a Khomeyniite uprising. Some circles are still saying that. I just want to remind my Arab nation and Arab officials of the decision made by our people in Bethlehem, Bayt Jala, and Jerusalem during the Christmas celebrations.

You know that those compatriots wait a whole year for this occasion, which lasts 1 or 2 weeks, to make some income which meets their needs for the whole year from the influx of pilgrims to the holy places. However, all the churches in the occupied territory got together and decided to cancel the Christmas celebrations and confine themselves to prayers only. Was that an act of the Khomeyni trends? Today, Friday [the interview was given at 0100 on Saturday], all the churches in our country observed general mourning and the bells tolled in sadness and solidarity on martyrs day. Was that an act of the Khomeyni trend?

Our people in Nazareth, or what remains of them there after the 1948 catastrophe, are my Christian kinfolk and they have staged massive and vociferous demonstrations, like the rest of the Palestinians at home and abroad. Was that Christian zeal for demonstration a result of Khomeyniite instigation?

When that sinister lie failed they began to claim that the PLO has nothing to do with the uprising when we know for a fact the demonstrators carried the PLO flag, pictures of 'Arafat, and PLO slogans and that the 7,000 detainees are accused by Israeli authorities of being PLO members and of receiving their incitement instructions from the PLO. Furthermore, the deportees or those on the deportation list have been deported or are on that list because they are PLO members.

The statements issued by the uprising and delivered to the UN secretary general, the nine consuls in Arab Jerusalem, the Italian president, British Minister of State at the Foreign Office Mellor, and British shadow foreign secretary Kaufman, as well as the petitions submitted to Goulding, all emphasized the PLO's role in what is happening. Even old women who could not speak English appeared on Western television screens making victory signs and chanting in English "Yes PLO, Israel no."

All the attempts made to obliterate the PLO's role were engineered by Israel. I warn my Palestinian people and my Arab nation against heeding such attempts.

I say it loud and clear for the first time: We have received a thousand and one offers from the Israelis and we have rejected them all. Rabin offered to release the 7,000 detainees and stop the deportations if we would seek to stop the uprising. We rejected that offer just as we rejected all the other offers, including the latest one through which Shamir thought he could bribe our people when he told them that if they did not celebrate Fatah's anniversary, which falls on the 1st of the year, he would be prepared to release the detainees.

I was of two minds about that offer because I could not tell them "continue" and risk 7,000 detainees. So I decided not to make any decision on that one, but the people staged demonstrations on that anniversary and the Palestinians told me: We accept no bribe and we will celebrate the Fatah and Palestinian revolution anniversary in our own way.

Furthermore, Shamir said he was thinking about autonomy before the uprising erupted. He then offered us negotiations on that issue in return for an end to the uprising but we rejected the entire offer, in addition to several successive ones. So far we have rejected all these offers. We have not even answered them.

AL-HAWADITH: You have been offered direct negotiations with Israel?

'Arafat: Yes, we have been offered direct negotiations. The offer was made publicly and was backed up by words in secret, but we resolutely rejected direct negotiations with the Israeli enemy. We only negotiate for recognition of our inalienable rights, that is our right to self-determination and to an independent state.

This Palestinian people's uprising is not the first. It is simply the current wave in a series of waves which began with a decision by the Palestinian Revolution Command when our people were besieged in their camps. When the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps nearly fell because of food shortages, forcing our fighters to eat dog and cat meat, our people in the occupied territories came out in support of their brothers. Mufti of Jerusalem Sa'd al-Din al-'Alami issued his famous edict at that time.

Then when Shultz was there he invited 82 Palestinian figures to meet with him in Jerusalem, but they refused and instead he was faced with a demonstration which gave him a petition saying the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They also told him: We will not meet with you because you have closed down our office in Washington. They used the phrase "our office" and did not simply say PLO office.

In their messages to Gorbachev and Reagan our Palestinian people inside [the occupied territories] stressed they were not simply after an improvement in their living conditions but wanted independence under PLO leadership and an end to the occupation. This is repeated in all the memoranda sent from inside the territories to the United Nations and the Arab League.

The demonstrations staged in the occupied territories when that protocol error was made at my reception in Amman during the recent Arab summit provided a confirmation of the PLO role inside the territories. I told the conferees then that an answer to the error made regarding the PLO leadership quickly came from the Palestinian people. We also do not forget the Israeli Cabinet's decision to use the "iron fist" as an answer to the demonstrations staged while the Amman conference was in session and to the stand taken against Shultz.

AL-HAWADITH: Does what has happened inside the territories require a change in the leadership to keep pace with it or are the current PLO organs and establishments still capable of fulfilling the objectives, representing, and absorbing?

'Arafat: I said last year and I repeat today that the "RPG" boys whom I left in Beirut as children were the ones who defended the camps and stood fast throughout 3 years of siege, just like the rock-throwing boys in the occupied territory. I call them the "new generals" of the Palestinian revolution. I feel happy because the revolution will triumph and because it does not depend on the life of one leader or leadership but produces its own generals and leaders at every stage.

AL-HAWADITH: In your view, will the revolution triumph soon under its present leader?

'Arafat: That is a matter to be decided by the people. Thank God, I am not a leader who imposes himself and his views on his people.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you think the uprising has served its purpose already or are you certain it will serve its purpose?

'Arafat: We are certain it will achieve its objectives. It is already beginning to be effective in two directions: in Israeli society, where sharp divisions are emerging in that society, and, for the first time, in the Israeli military establishment and, particularly, in the political establishment. It is also beginning to be significantly effective in relation to world public opinion, prompting Reagan to make his recent statements and to send his famous message to King Hassan II, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, in reply to King Hassan's message.

After this blessed uprising, Thatcher today said that an urgent solution must be found to this problem. Also, there were messages from General Secretary Gorbachev to me on the matter, from Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to the UN secretary general requesting a Security Council meeting attended by the foreign ministers of the five permanent members, and from Chinese Comrade Jayni Peng [name as published] reaffirming support for the Palestinian people's uprising under the PLO leadership against the barbaric practices and calling for an urgent international conference.

There are also the Palestinian and Arab dimensions, raising self-confidence and strengthening the conviction that the Palestinian struggle, regardless of the various methods used, always produces certain positive results. The 1982 steadfastness yielded results, our people's steadfastness in the camps yielded results, and now this uprising has yielded results. The total sum of victories will ultimately be a great triumph. In view of the new developments, we have done many things. We have formed an emergency command which is in session 24 hours a day. Even the Executive Committee, the PNC, the Supreme Military Council, and the Occupied Homeland Committee are in session. The latter was meeting the moment you entered this hall.

We have set up a special fund which we call the "uprising fund" which we feed with PLO money and donations we collect from the Palestinian people in addition to the aid provided by our Arab brothers. We have also formed popular committees inside the territories, in every village, every school, every university, every camp, and every quarter in the big cities. We have also set up commands in the West Bank and Gaza and they are in constant contact with the emergency committee outside. We, from the top of the pyramid to the base, are determined to back the uprising and perpetuate the uprising, wave after wave. I speak of waves because the uprising, which may subside at times for external reasons beyond the Palestinian people's control, is like a volcano which, though calm at times, is never dead.

AL-HAWADITH: Would you accept Security Council Resolution 242 if Israel agreed to an international conference on the Middle East?

'Arafat: My position has not changed. It stems from our PNC resolutions advocating recognition of all UN resolutions. We consider international legitimacy to be an indivisible whole. I have said in Harare and in Geneva, at a meeting of nongovernmental organizations held in support of the Palestinian cause, that we accept all UN resolutions including Resolution 242 on the basis of our understanding of international legitimacy and resolutions as an indivisible whole. I cannot understand how Israel could be entitled to accept one resolution or parts of a UN resolution and reject another UN resolution. Take Resolution 181, for example. In its first clause it speaks of the establishment of a Palestinian Arab state and in the second clause of the establishment of a Jewish state. Israel accepts the second clause and rejects the first.

AL-HAWADITH: In view of the internal Israeli divisions, do you wager on Shim'on Peres or Yitzhaq Shamir to establish peace in the Middle East?

'Arafat: Both are against the Palestinian people and have the same strategy although they use different tactics. The Likud uses the iron fist and Peres, but not all the Labor Party, uses the iron fist in silk gloves, although Rabin has taken off the silk gloves and appears to be even more cruel than the Likud. In that respect both Labor and the Likud are the same as far as we are concerned.

AL-HAWADITH: How do you explain Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza was an answer to the fact that the Amman summit gave the Gulf war top priority, unlike previous summits which always gave the Palestinian question top priority?

'Arafat: That is inaccurate because the conference was originally held to discuss the Gulf war, hence that agenda. To be fair, however, I must say the Arabs insisted on raising the Palestinian question at that conference. Realizing how important it is to end the Gulf war, which is a fireball in the oilfields, I said I would be content with just two things from the Amman conference: a reaffirmation of the previous resolutions and position on the question of an international conference and support for the uprising in the occupied territory. The resolutions were issued in that way. The resolutions repudiate Rabin's claim.

AL-HAWADITH: While on the question of the Gulf war, what has become of your mediation between Iraq and Iran?

'Arafat: The mediation is still continuing. I have recently sent a message to the religious leadership in Qom explaining the importance of ending the war. The message had quite an impact on that body to the extent that one of the ayatollahs issued a ruling blessing my proposal and urging an end to that war.

AL-HAWADITH: You had predicted that the Gulf war would end this year. Do you still hold the same opinion?

'Arafat: Of course I do, for the following reasons:

1. The Iranian forces cannot strategically and decisively settle the issue.

2. Differences are beginning to appear within the Iranian religious leadership, with voices being raised in support of an end to the war.

3. The international community wants an end to the war and is concerned about the effects its continuation might have on international interests.

AL-HAWADITH: You have spoken of military participation in the Gulf war. Does that mean you intend to send fighters to take part in it?

'Arafat: Yes, I am prepared to send fighters to the Gulf. Some of the Palestinian forces which left Beirut after the Israeli invasion are still in certain places. I have told the brothers in Kuwait that if they needed these forces I would be willing to move them to any point, even on the military front.

AL-HAWADITH: Have your relations with the Iranians improved or are they still the same?

'Arafat: Our relations with Iranian politicians have not been defined. My relations are basically with the religious leadership in Qom and these relations have not changed from the very first moment. My relations with Iranian officials are actually very bad. They stripped our ambassador in Tehran of the doyenship of the Islamic diplomatic corps in the wake of the stand we took regarding the incidents in holy Mecca.

AL-HAWADITH: If that is the case with the Iranian politicians, how do you assess your relations with American politicians, particularly the presidential candidates. It is known there is a friendship between you and Jesse Jackson, who has no chance of winning, but all the other candidates have to pacify the Zionist lobby in order to win. How do you view the U.S. elections and who, in your view, is the best, or least harmful, candidate for the Palestinian cause?

'Arafat: With the exception of Jackson, I, regrettably, am not optimistic about the results of these elections, whoever the new president is going to be. I bank only on the Palestinian people and on American public opinion, which has been deeply moved by the recent uprising wave.

AL-HAWADITH: How do you interpret the recent U.S. position at the United Nations? Do you see it as a change in favor of the Palestinian cause?

'Arafat: We hope this reflects a change in U.S. policy toward Israel.

AL-HAWADITH: In light of British Minister of State David Mellor's visit to the occupied territories, do you think Margaret Thatcher's policy has been developing more and more in favor of the Palestinian people since 1981?

'Arafat: I hope the British press reports quoting her as saying she was annoyed by Mellor's attitude—which have not been denied—are not true. Today she made a statement in which she said the West Bank and Gaza Strip events call for urgent understanding between the Palestinians and the Israelis. For the first time she has used the same equal phrase for Palestinians and Israelis.

AL-HAWADITH: Was Faruq Qaddumi's visit to London a result of this new Thatcher policy?

'Arafat: Faruq Qaddumi's visit to London was not an official visit although he did meet with the British Foreign Office under secretary before his departure.

AL-HAWADITH: The EEC has postponed implementation of its agreements with Israel since the latter obstructed the conclusion of economic agreements between the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the EEC. How do you assess PLO relations with EEC members?

'Arafat: We have official relations in various fields with some EEC member states. I have met with many EEC leaders on various occasions, especially Belgium when it was EEC chairman and former French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, who is now an EEC official, and also with Greek Prime Minister Papandreou, whose country is not entitled to the 4-month chairmanship of the EEC. Contacts between us and the EEC members have not stopped. It should be noted that the PLO is an original member of the Arab-European dialogue and it often led the Arab delegation to the dialogue.

AL-HAWADITH: Is Minister Nabih Birri's announcement lifting the camps siege seen as the beginning of a new chapter between you?

'Arafat: We hope so because he is an old friend. I think the decision made by Nabih was implemented by the Syrian forces and was in fact made with the approval of these forces in fulfillment of the promise to end the siege of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon given to me by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during my brief meeting with him in the presence of Algerian President Bendjedid in a lobby of the Amman summit. I therefore address my thanks to my brother President al-Asad for that stand and also to Brother Nabih Birri for that initiative. I hope that with this step, a new leaf has been turned in our relations with the Amal brothers and with the Syrian brothers.

AL-HAWADITH: And what has become of the Syrian-Palestinian dialogue?

'Arafat: We are still exchanging messages with them.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you think the Lebanese presidential elections will take place in accordance with the constitutional schedule?

'Arafat: Yes, they will be held on schedule.

AL-HAWADITH: Who, in your view, will be the next Lebanese president?

'Arafat: You know very well who it is going to be.

AL-HAWADITH: Will the presidential elections bring about an end to the Lebanese crisis?

'Arafat: No, regrettably. Although the United States is trying to separate the Lebanese question from the Middle East question, the two cannot be separated for they are now interlinked and every Lebanese should realize this lest he entertain the illusion that Israel has occupied a part of Lebanon and will never leave it. [as published]

AL-HAWADITH: Soviet and American experts have begun studying the various disputed issues between the two giants in preparation for the Reagan-Gorbachev Moscow summit. Do you think the Middle East question will be on that summit's agenda?

'Arafat: At the Washington summit it was agreed to refer that issue to special committees. These committees have discussed the issue and agreed to continue talks, but the current Palestinian uprising has clearly imposed a new situation.

AL-HAWADITH: Did the Arab foreign ministers conference and its recommendations live up to your expectations?

'Arafat: Actually, and I am proud to say this, the atmosphere was positive, realistic, and constructive. A high sense of responsibility pervaded the meetings and was evident in all discussions and deliberations and also in the resolutions adopted at the end of the conference. It was agreed that the committee formed would meet between 7 and 10 February to discuss details of moves at international levels, including the United Nations, the Security Council permanent members, and the European, Islamic, African, and other friendly states. That committee has been entrusted, along with the PLO, with holding contacts, following this blessed uprising in the occupied territories, and providing the means necessary to ensure its continuity.

PLO Official Discusses Government-in-Exile

PM281421 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 23 Jan 88 pp 26, 27

[Interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member and Fatah Central Committee member, by Salih Zaytun in Doha; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Giving more details about the Palestinian position on the idea of a government-in-exile, Abu Mazin said: At its first meeting in Baghdad after the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman, the PLO Executive Committee discussed the issue of announcing a government-in-exile, made a serious and practical decision, and formed a legal committee under Palestinian jurist Dr Anis al-Qadim, Central Council member, to consult with Arab and Palestinian legal experts to crystallize the idea.

[Zaytun] What prompts you to announce such a government at this particular time?

['Abbas] Both Arab and world developments prompt us to think of this.

[Zaytun] It is being said you want to use the uprising to achieve such a step, which was promoted by Palestinian leaders in the past.

['Abbas] There is no direct relationship between the idea and the uprising. In fact the decision regarding the idea was made during the Baghdad meeting I mentioned.

[Zaytun] Have all factions represented in the Executive Committee accepted the idea?

['Abbas] All factions attended the Baghdad meeting and agreed to the idea.

[Zaytun] Why did you formerly oppose the idea of a government-in-exile but are now promoting it?

['Abbas] In the past we opposed the timing, not the idea.

[Zaytun] What benefits would it bring now?

['Abbas] A government-in-exile would provide more scope for political maneuvering than the PLO and its political existence at both the Arab and world levels. Its political action would also be clearer, since there is a big difference between what a state says and what a revolution says.

[Zaytun] And will you stop the armed struggle once you announce such a government to speak in the name of a state?

['Abbas] The armed struggle will remain and the other known Palestinian institutions within the PLO will remain, since the interim government will stem from them. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] Will leaders inside [the occupied territories] play a role in such a government so it is a collective and strong one?

['Abbas] The leaders inside are part of the Palestinian people and it is difficult to name a minister in our government while he is under occupation. It is well known that we have 180 people in the occupied territories who are members of the PNC, but we cannot name them, to spare them oppression.

[Zaytun] In your opinion, what is a suitable time for announcing such a government?

['Abbas] A year from now at the most, probably sooner.

[Zaytun] Does this mean 1988 will be the year of announcing a government-in-exile?

['Abbas] The new year will be a distinct one in the Palestinian march. It will be influenced by international accord, Arab accord, brave uprisings, increasing interactions within Israeli society, as well as notable developments in world public opinion. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] Do you think the facts of Palestinian political action will change after the announcement of a government-in-exile and differ from PLO moves?

['Abbas] If a government is announced this will mean political maneuvers are unified. We are now focusing on working toward convening an international conference, but this requires important Arab factors.

[Zaytun] What factors?

['Abbas] First of all, uniting the ranks of the frontline states surrounding the Israeli entity to prepare for attending the international conference, no matter how long it takes to convene it.

[Zaytun] And how will this be achieved while PLO relations with Jordan, Syrian, and Lebanon are still the same?

['Abbas] A dialogue will be held with Jordan; contacts are continuing with Syria. I believe these are good developments toward achieving the idea we have talked about.

[Zaytun] But it seems dialogue with Syria is still difficult.

['Abbas] Previous Syrian objections to the Palestinian position are still the same; we are negotiating over them. The new development in this regard is that there is a dialogue, albeit via mediation. We hope this dialogue will assume a direct form to achieve quick results. Our contacts with the Syrians have not been interrupted for 4 months. Recent contacts between us do not carry a negative position; in fact they seem to include positive signs.

[Zaytun] What about Jordan?

['Abbas] We hope the political dialogue with Jordan will commence soon, since there must be swift consultation over coordinating Arab stands on the convening of an international conference. We are still waiting for Jordan to respond to this and specify a date for our arrival in Amman. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] But Jordan proposes the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation on the basis of recognition of Security Council Resolution 242.

['Abbas] We are now discussing the formation of a joint Arab delegation comprising all frontline states, or at least joint coordination. As for Resolution 242, we accept it among all UN resolutions on the Palestinian problem, or when it is associated with Palestinian rights.

[Zaytun] In light of what you have achieved during your recent visit to Cairo, how does the Egyptian leadership view this issue?

['Abbas] We agreed with the Egyptian brothers to go to the international conference as an Arab group, not as individuals, provided there is understanding among the four Arab parties concerned; namely, the PLO, Jordan, Egypt, and Syria. And if any differences erupt, we must not let them hamper the continuation of understanding on achieving a solution.

[Zaytun] But some might understand that such understanding could turn into a regional bloc.

['Abbas] We reject the policy of blocs. We stress once again we want understanding based on common Arab action so that we can have a unified plan and agreed general rules, above all the PLO's full participation in conferences.

[Zaytun] Does this mean you have abandoned the idea of an independent delegation?

['Abbas] At the beginning we said we were in favor of attending the conference with an independent delegation. And now there is no objection to attending within a joint Arab delegation. On this basis, we are making our contacts with the frontline states. Whoever delays agreement will bear the responsibility.

[Zaytun] We are talking of an international conference like someone squabbling over the bear's skin before it is caught. Do you believe an international conference will be held?

['Abbas] We are not very optimistic. But if the idea is presented when the whole world is convinced of it, we would say yes. However, if it is held, it would not necessarily succeed. It is also uncertain whether its results would meet our aspirations. We must work toward achieving our objective. I would like to mention here that 15 years ago no one talked of Palestine, but now talk of Palestine is something fundamental. Two years ago no one talked of an international conference, but today world conviction of the idea is increasing. This means the issue is seriously presented.

[Zaytun] In view of this cloudy picture of the situation, will you continue the armed struggle?

['Abbas] We are proceeding via an international conference as well as via armed struggle. Our political, information, and military struggles have always been parallel. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] Was your recent visit to Cairo in preparation for Yasir 'Arafat's expected visit?

['Abbas] My visit was not in preparation for 'Arafat's visit. We informed Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that 'Arafat does not need an invitation, since Egypt is always open to him; it is his country. We in the Palestinian leadership welcome and support this approach so that there will be no restrictions on Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] maneuvers.

[Zaytun] What is your personal information about the U.S.-Soviet summit in Washington?

['Abbas] The Washington summit got the train on the track in terms of world peace. This means the arms limitation agreement will be followed by other agreements regarding Star Wars and regional issues, since international accord is entering a new stage, thus giving hope that world problems, especially our region's problems, will be resolved.

We understand that the Middle East problem was discussed in general terms between Reagan and Gorbachev, but discussed in details within the subcommittees during the summit. Differences emerged between the two viewpoints. We understand the Soviet Union adhered to two points: the international conference's powers and nature and Palestinian representation in it. Whereas the Americans wanted it to be a mere umbrella for negotiations.

[Zaytun] The Soviets proposed something like this when they said once the conference convenes, it will branch into bilateral committees for direct negotiations. Does this proposal seem similar to the U.S. position?

['Abbas] The Soviet Union wants the conference to be an arbitrator, not an umbrella. It does not object to the idea of bilateral committees provided that they refer to the conference, which has the power and influence, to settle differences.

[Zaytun] When do you expect Yasir 'Arafat to visit Moscow?

['Abbas] Abu 'Ammar's visit to Moscow is expected to take place at the end of this month (January) or the beginning of February. Anyhow, the visit will take place before the next Soviet-U.S. summit is held in Moscow.

[Zaytun] Will such an official visit take place when you have no ambassador in Moscow?

['Abbas] The Palestinian leadership has considered a number of nominations and a discussion is under way to agree on a specific figure to be presented to the Soviets.

[Zaytun] Might you in particular be the Palestinian ambassador there by virtue of your chairmanship of the Palestinian-Soviet Friendship Committee?

['Abbas] Such talk, published by some Arab newspapers, is untrue.

PLO Figure Denounces Mubarak Call for 'Truce'

LD281849 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Yesterday Brother Abu al-'Aziz, the PLO representative in Algeria, strongly criticized President Mubarak's initiative calling for a 6-month truce in the occupied territories. In a ceremony organized by the Algerian Writers and Journalists Union, he said: It is a crime to call on the victim to stop living and to equate him with his executioner.

He added: What Mubarak calls violence is resistance and for the Palestinian people resistance is existence.

He announced that attempts to find alternatives for the PLO are still continuing.

PLO's Bishop Khuri on 'Uprising,' Shultz

JN282017 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1753 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Interview with Bishop Iliya Khuri, PLO Executive Committee member, by 'Adil Malik in London; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Malik] There is a persistent question; namely, why the Palestinian people's uprising now? Is there a special motive, a certain timing for this uprising after 20 years of occupation?

[Khuri] In fact, the occupation has gone on for a very long time. Many are frustrated. The Arab states have not been able to reach any results in their talks with the big powers and others. Therefore, these youths revolted because they want to realize their future, liberate their homeland from occupation, establish an independent Palestinian state, and liberate the land and man. This uprising will continue until all of this has been realized, God willing. Without this peace will never be realized.

[Malik] We must ask you about U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' meeting with two Palestinian figures: Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah. Is there any evidence of a new U.S. stand coming out of this meeting?

[Khuri] The Palestinian people's afflictions are caused by the U.S. rejection of all the peace efforts the PLO has been proposing to solve the Palestinian problem. I personally have no hope whatsoever about any contacts with the United States. We have many friends among the American people, but the U.S. Administration has devoted all of its resources to serving Israel. Therefore, we have no hopes to pin on the Americans. The United States lost its credibility as far as we are concerned a long time ago and I think it will lose its credibility with the Arab world as a whole.

[Malik] Who requested the meeting, you or the U.S. Administration?

[Khuri] As far as I know, it was the U.S. secretary of state who requested a meeting with these figures and I am sure these two Palestinian figures, Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah, will convey the Palestinian people's demands to the U.S. secretary of state. There can be no substitute for the PLO in any peace talks with any side whatsoever and no Palestinian in the occupied territory will agree to appoint himself a representative of the Palestinian people without PLO approval.

[Malik] The last question to Your Eminence is about the Palestinian government-in-exile. This idea was suggested recently and is being discussed. How serious is this proposal and what is the political or national aim this government would serve?

[Khuri] Do you not agree with me, my Brother 'Adil, that the PLO is virtually a Palestinian government-in-exile, that it is carrying out all of its political responsibilities toward the Palestinian cause? The idea of a Palestinian government-in-exile was suggested a long time ago and is still presented for discussion in the Executive Committee meetings. The Executive Committee has so far not made a decision on this issue because it is still being discussed. It requires a large-scale discussion on international, Arab, and Palestinian levels.

[Malik] Thank you, Your Eminence.

PFLP, PFLP-GC Attack Sinyurah U.S. Visit

JN281244 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1152 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], PFLP assistant secretary general, made a statement yesterday on the visit to Washington by Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah. He said their visit constitutes a circumvention of Palestinian legitimacy.

Fadl Shururu, in a statement to REUTER yesterday, said: The PFLP-GC affirms that Sinyurah and Abu Rahmah do not represent anyone in Palestine and only represent themselves. Our heroic Palestinian people and their uprising will know how to foil the approaches of Sinyurah and Abu Rahmah. Shururu added: The PFLP-GC warns everyone against attempts to circumvent our people's uprising in Palestine.

PFLP Denies Fomenting Disturbances in Jordan

JN290618 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0520 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] The PFLP issued a statement in Damascus yesterday categorically denying Jordanian Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani's accusations that the PFLP had attempted to foment disturbances in Jordan. The PFLP statement said these accusations are totally baseless.

Appeal on Continuing Strike, Boycotting Paper

JN281711 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following:

Appeal No 5 was distributed today in Palestine, particularly in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It was signed by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising and the PLO. The appeal calls for continuing the uprising and the strikes, boycotting Zionist goods, and refusing to purchase or read the Jerusalem newspaper AL-NAHAR.

Strike Hours Defined

JN281615 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1540 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following:

A short while ago, an appeal was addressed to shopkeepers in the heroic West Bank and Gaza Strip calling on them to observe their strike from the morning until 1500 daily. They should open their shops only from 1500-1800 effective Saturday, the day after tomorrow.

Al-Quds Radio Notes Kidnappings, 'Tension'

JN291033 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0945 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following:

The Zionist police and army forces are erecting checkpoints on the roads to Jerusalem to terrorize the worshippers and prevent them from arriving at Al-Aqsa Mosque to perform prayers. There are several checkpoints around the Al-Aqsa courtyard.

The masses of Sa'ir village have been demonstrating since morning despite the siege imposed on the village. The Qalandiyah camp inhabitants are staging a march to protest the kidnapping of four youths from the camp. Their fate is unknown except for Ra'id Mutayr, a 20-year-old youth, whom citizens found by chance in a remote area. He was lying on the ground unconscious, beaten, and with a wound over the eyebrow. The fate of Khalid Abu Shalbak and brothers Hisham and Jamal Mustafa Ahmad is still unknown.

Tension is prevailing in all areas pending the [Friday] prayers and what will happen afterwards, especially since the Zionist forces are renewing their siege on mosques.

Algeria

Joint Press Communique With Congo Issued

PM281518 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 21 Jan 88 p 2

[APS report: "Exemplary Relations"]

[Text] An Algerian-Congolese press communique was issued after the official friendly visit made by Ange Edouard Poungui, member of the Congolese Labor Party [PCT] Politburo and prime minister of the People's Republic of the Congo, to Algeria from 15 to 20 January at the invitation of Abdelhamid Brahimi, candidate member of the FLN Politburo and prime minister of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

The following is the full text of this press communique:

"At the invitation of His Excellency Abdelhamid Brahimi, candidate member of the FLN Central Committee Politburo and prime minister of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, His Excellency Ange Edouard Poungui, member of the PCT Politburo and prime minister of the People's Republic of the Congo, made an official friendly visit to Algeria from 15 to 20 January 1988.

"His Excellency Ange Edouard Poungui and the delegation accompanying him were given a particularly warm welcome by the Algerian people and Government, which reflects the feelings of mutual respect and militant solidarity uniting the Congolese and Algerian peoples.

"During his visit, His Excellency Ange Edouard Poungui was granted an audience by His Excellency Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and FLN secretary general, to whom he handed a message of friendship and solidarity from his brother and friend Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the PCT Central Committee, president of the Republic, and head of government of the People's Republic of the Congo.

"In addition, His Excellency Ange Edouard Poungui paid his respects at the Tomb of the Martyrs and toured numerous social and economic projects in Algiers, Constantine, and Ghardaia.

"His Excellency Ange Edouard Poungui held important talks with His Excellency Abdelhamid Brahimi, his counterpart—talks which focused as much on bilateral relations as on African and international problems.

"Examining their bilateral relations, the two sides welcomed the high-level consultations which have always existed between the two countries, as well as the exemplary quality of their political relations, and made a detailed analysis of their cooperation in light of the joint commission's recent session. They noted that this cooperation is still being developed to the mutual satisfaction of both countries. They promised to seek ways and means of giving it new impetus. For instance, they expressed their satisfaction with the signing of the additional protocol to the commercial agreement and of the cultural, scientific, and technological cooperation agreement which will strengthen and extend bilateral cooperation.

"Turning to the situation on the African Continent, the two sides reviewed the serious problems facing it.

"With regard to Chad, the two sides agreed that the solution to Chad's remaining problems lies in the principles established by the 19th OAU summit, and hence, in an African framework, in the exclusion of any foreign interference. They called for the completion of national reconciliation and the establishment of peace in the region with respect for territorial integrity and national sovereignty. They also expressed their support for the OAU ad hoc committee's efforts to find a peaceful solution to the problem.

"With regard to the Western Sahara conflict, the two sides reaffirmed their conviction that this is part of a decolonization process to be completed by the Western Saharan people exercising their right to self-determination and independence.

"In this connection, they praised the Saharan people's courageous struggle to obtain satisfaction of that right. The two sides reaffirmed their support for the joint UN-OAU good offices process aimed at implementing OAU Resolution 104 and UN General Assembly Resolution 41.

"With regard to southern Africa, the two sides reaffirmed their active solidarity and expressed their wholehearted support for the Namibian people led by the South-West African People's Organization, and the South African people under the African National Congress' leadership, in their heroic struggle against the odious apartheid regime. They reaffirmed their firm conviction that Security Council Resolution 435/78 is and remains the sole basis for enabling the Namibian people to gain independence and national sovereignty. They expressed their support for the frontline countries, especially Angola and Mozambique, which are continuing with courage and determination to face the racist Pretoria regime's aggressive and destabilizing machinations.

"With regard to the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories, the two sides paid tribute to all the Palestinian victims who have fallen voicing the Palestinian people's thirst for freedom.

"They strongly condemned Israel's repressive policy against the unarmed Palestinian population and its use of deportation, which is contrary to international law.

"They reaffirmed that any just and lasting solution to the Palestinian problem depends on recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable right to build a sovereign state on their land. They expressed their support for the convening of an international conference under UN auspices with participation by the PLO—the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

"With regard to the Iran-Iraq war, the two sides deplored its continuation and appealed to the warring sides to end this conflict, which is causing loss of human life and material damage on a huge scale. They called on the two sides in the conflict to use peaceful means to settle their differences and to protect the region from the possible extension of the conflict.

"The two sides welcomed the consultations started through the African association of oil-producing countries and they are convinced that a joint line of conduct will safeguard and promote their legitimate rights.

"The two sides welcomed the holding of the extraordinary OAU summit on Africa's foreign debt and the results which it produced, thanks to the African peoples' spirit of solidarity and friendship.

"In this connection, they welcomed the decisions jointly made with a view to implementing the priority program of African economic recovery and speeding up the holding of an international conference on Africa's foreign debt, to ease its intolerable burden and to make it compatible with growth targets.

"The two sides are convinced that a reliable strategy on the debt must stem from cooperation, sustained dialogue, and collective responsibility in an atmosphere of renewed and strengthened international cooperation.

"His Excellency Ange Edouard Poungui, member of the PCT Politburo, prime minister of the People's Republic of the Congo, invited His Excellency Abdelhamid Brahimi to make an official friendly visit to the People's Republic of the Congo. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. The date for the meeting will be fixed later through diplomatic channels."

Chad

Further on Drought Control Summit Meeting

Habre, Mali's Traore Hold Talks

AB291147 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Before participating in the opening ceremony of the Eighth ICDCS [Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel] Summit, President Hissein Habre this morning visited his Malian counterpart, General Moussa Traore. For half an hour, the two heads of state reviewed the current situation in Africa and the world and exchanged ideas on certain problems in the ICDCS, notably the respective national plans of the two countries for checking desert encroachment and underlined the similarity of their views on the solutions to be applied.

Summit Opens 28 Jan

AB282157 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Excerpts] After the solemn opening ceremony of the Eighth ICDCS Summit this morning, the heads of state and government this afternoon held a closed door meeting in the meeting room of the Cite de l'Afrique. They are expected to examine the report of the 23d ICDCS Ministerial Council. As you know, the Eighth ICDCS Summit opened this morning in the main conference room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The president of Burkina Faso, Captain Blaise Compaore; the president of Cape Verde, Aristides Pereira; the president of Guinea-Bissau, Joao Bernardo Vieira; the president of Mali, Moussa Traore; the president of Senegal, Abdou Diouf; the president of Chad, Hissein Habre; the vice president of the Gambia, Bakary Darbo; the prime minister of Niger, Hamid Algabid; and high officials and representatives of international organizations are taking part in this historic summit.

The opening ceremony took place under the chairmanship of President Abdou Diouf, the Senegalese head of state and current chairman of the ICDCS. Prior to this Chadian President El Hadj Hissein Habre asked the participants to observe a minute of silence in memory of late Niger President Seyni Kountche. He then welcomed all the delegations and expressed the happiness of the Chadian people at hosting the Eighth ICDCS Summit.

In his address, President Hissein Habre pointed out the problems the Sahelian organization is confronted with: a grain shortage, the increasing deterioration of [words indistinct], a decline in water and fishery resources, all of which are serious causes of concern for the Sahelian states. This situation is made worse by the debt burden and the falling prices of raw materials and requires from the Sahelian states constant cooperation in the common struggle. [passage omitted

President Abdou Diouf, the current ICDCS chairman, then made the opening statement of the subregional organization's eighth summit. The Senegalese head of state paid high tribute to the determination and courage of the Chadian people and their leader, El Hadj Hissein Habre, and to their attachment to the Sahel and the ICDCS, in spite of the hardships they have been experiencing. He then welcomed the president of Guinea-Bissau, whose country became a member of the ICDCS in 1986 and has been able to show its determination to be [word indistinct] and overcome with us the tragedies of the Sahel. The Senegalese head of state talked at length of the actions undertaken during his term to give credibility to our organization, actions which have been undertaken on four fronts. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Outlines Expectations From U.S.

NC282138 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Washington, 28 Jan (MENA)—Following a working lunch held in his honor by members of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, President Husni Mubarak expressed his belief that the United States is willing to help end the Middle East problem and achieve peace in the region.

When queried on whether he had asked the U.S. Administration for more effective action in the Middle East, President Mubarak stated: I explained the true situation in the Arab Gulf and the Middle East to the U.S. Administration and our friends in the Senate. We did not ask for more intervention from the United States; what we want is to reduce tension in the region by achieving peace there.

Replying to a question about the reaction he expects from the U.S. Administration to his appeal on the [Palestinian] uprising, President Mubarak said: I believe the United States is willing to help end this problem and achieve peace in the region. There are many ways and means of doing this.

Asked how the United States can help, the president said: I believe they are full partners in the peace process and that they will activate their role to help, as the former administration did when the Camp David accords were concluded and the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel was signed. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks on Unity, 'Awareness'

LD290130 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Address by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to students of secondary education and teacher training institutions from around the country; date and place not given—videorecorded]

[Excerpts] After the revolution, it is especially important that you understand, and that you make those you teach understand: What we are saying is nothing new to culture or general knowledge; what we are saying is necessary, and without it there would be a great failing in our behavior and concepts. There then would be an imbalance in our position.

The time in which we live is a difficult one, with difficult conditions; it is a bad stage. This is not the first time that this region has gone through difficult conditions. But this time it is in this era that this stumbling occurs. In times past, Arabs had periods of weakness and division, and even outside invasion, but they overcame these conditions. However, the seriousness of our current situation is that it comes in this era, with its swiftness and its amazing changes in all fields. This is the seriousness of the situation. The nations around us have united.

What the Arabs are now living through was experienced long ago by others. But we were delayed until now, and we did not enter the stage they entered 400 years ago. For instance, Italy, as a state opposite our shores, consisted of kingdoms, republics, provinces, and ministates belonging to a number of surrounding countries: once to Spain, then to France. Similar to our situation now. But through grand efforts and civil war in the days of Garibaldi, of whom you hear, they united their nation, and Italy is now a united state with medium status. It was like the Arab nation. Germany consisted of states, then was united until World War II, when it was divided into two parts after they defeated it.

The USSR did not exist, and now it has become this big area. China has become such a force, with one-quarter of the world's population. As for India, interactions led to the creation of Pakistan and India in 1947. What is important is all these interactions, which have led to the emergence of the nationalities and their triumph, and the unification of every nationality. We, the Arabs, are late. We still have not entered this stage today, the stage of pan-Arab unity. We should now be one state, facing problems. It could be weak, it could be poor, and it could be subjected to an invasion; it is all right. This is another stage after unity. After unity we face them.

But our problem now is that we are confronting unity; we have not achieved unity; we have not achieved Arab unity. An Israeli invasion, a U.S. invasion, etc.; we face these problems, yet we have not achieved unity. Other problems are internal reaction, kingdoms, sultanates, uncrowned kings, crowned kings, exploitation, one citizen exploiting another, employers, contractors, rich people, poor people, middlemen, usurers, all these are exhausting the effort of the Arab, and consequently weaken him. [passage omitted reiterating fact that Arabs are not united in facing all these problems]

The problem before you, which you are teaching your sons, is that we have entered the stage of social revolution. The world entered the stage of social revolution before the achievement of pan-Arab unity in relation to the Arab nation. [passage omitted on the history of liberation from colonialism]

The third stage is the stage of social revolution. After we are freed from colonialism and become united, conflict begins among us internally, between workers and employers, between exploiters and exploited, and between the people and those controlling them, until equality is achieved within the one country. The sons of the same country have the right to live equally. When we say authority, wealth, and weapons are in the hands of the people, this means that the wealth of the country is divided among the population of the country. This is correct. It is unreasonable to have someone who has a big share and another who has a small share. I mean, we cannot originally divide it this way, and say that you are an employer, and exploit this group in order to be rich, and this group is from the people of the same country but we do not give them the right to be employers; you are an employer, and you remain workers serving him, work 10 hours and give him 5 and take 5 for yourselves. This is exploitation. One person begins as a rich man, and another begins as a poor man. One person has 10 houses; he lives in 1 and rents 9, while someone else has no house at all. He looks for a house and rents this house from a citizen like him from the same country. Who has the right to live in a house and make you rent a house from him? You are now [words indistinct] to let a house to you. Who is he, to be more than you are? This is yours. House renting is no more. Houses are for their occupants. [passage omitted discussing that everyone should have the same access to the wealth of the nation]

When we say authority, this also means equality in authority. No citizen has the right to make a decision which concerns the rest of the citizens. How can one person be the government, and the rest governed? This should be abolished, and we all should be equal in adopting decisions. This is a people's congress, that is a people's congress, and there is a people's congress. They are all equal in discussing the agenda and issuing resolutions about it. The same applies for weapons. Who defends on our behalf? We all should defend our existence. The stage of social revolution is the stage in which citizens should be equal. [passage omitted discussing fact that the world is now in this stage of social revolution]

Unfortunately, the world entered this stage, and we Arabs entered it, but we missed the first stage, which is national revolution; that is, national unity. The Arab nation is supposed to be one state. We then enter into internal conflict among ourselves, between workers and employers, the people and the government, until we achieve internal victory and achieve equality, and the social revolution becomes victorious. But we are now facing the social revolution with differences between Arab citizens. You can see Arab citizens everywhere: One is rich and another is poor; one is a begger and the other drives a big car and owns a palace; one has a large farm and other citizens are workers in this farm. They are from the same country. It is their land, and they should divide it inch by inch.

This social revolution, which we entered—and the whole world entered and we are with it—we entered while still not united. We entered two stages. We want to unite the Arabs in one state, and we want to achieve equality among the Arabs internally. We are facing an external aggression, a Zionist expansion supported by external imperialist powers. [passage omitted elaborating on this fight for social revolution and Arab unity and against imperialism]

Without political consciousness, as I told your brothers last time, you can learn and then go to serve the United States. You think this is not a war against your nation, while in fact you fight your nation when you learn and go to the United States, learn and go to Canada, learn and stay in Britain. It means you have joined the enemy ranks and now fight your nation. You think that you fight with a machinegun and rifle? Fighting; when you sweep streets in Britain it means you are providing a service to the enemy, and this is fighting. [passage omitted on how the enemy is served by opening a shop in another country]

Create a farm in Libya; set up a workshop in Libya; sweep the street. You said no, I am sweeping the streets in Canada; I am not against you. You are against us, because you are cleaning their streets, so they remain healthy and devote themselves to fighting us. [passage omitted on a similar example about serving tea and coffee to the enemy]

Why don't the Americans come and serve us? When Reagan asked for every American who goes to Libya to be put on trial, how many Americans are now in prison because they came to Libya and worked here? The oil companies, they said leave. Why? Because they are providing us with a service. Are they in the Libyan Army? No, they are not in the Libyan Army. But they said Libya is our enemy and you are in it, this means you are serving the Libyans, serving our enemy, and the one who serves our enemy we consider him a soldier who has deserted with his weapon and gone to the other side, and he should be put on trial. And now he is trying the Americans on this basis. Any company that comes to Libya, he tries it. Any American who comes to Libya, he tries him, because he says to him: If you go to Libya, even as a tourist, it means you are paying money to the Libyans, thus assisting them, our enemies. A tourist, imagine! An American tourist visiting Libya is considered a deserter from the U.S. Army who joined the Libyan Army. And the emergency law grants Reagan the power to try Americans, ban them, and issue orders against Libya. [passage omitted repeating this theme]

This you should understand, and I am certain that if all these people have to take an exam, they will not know this story. [chanting] [passage omitted on the need to study and keep abreast of knowledge]

The one without political consciousness is like an animal. If the money is in the United States, he goes to the United States. If the money is in Canada, he goes to Canada. Third World countries suffer a loss; they taught their sons and lost. The one who was taught was tempted by Europe, tempted by the United States, and settled there. Instead of returning to his country and making it like the United States, like Europe, he settled among the Americans, the Europeans, in the West. [passage omitted on an African doctor who settled in Europe instead of coming home]

If all the scientists who were taught in the Arab homeland and in the Third World were now present in this homeland, it would be as advanced as Europe. Thousands of Arab, African and Asian scientists are in the West. We taught them without any political awareness. They learned science, then they were tempted by these European countries and they stayed there. But you should make your country as advanced as them. This is the battle. [passage omitted stressing idea that the people are backward because their enemies kept them backward]

They want to deceive you, tempt you, and make you remain there. You should deceive them. There are some people who did not deceive you, but you chose to stay with them. Do you think that the United States respects its agents? The United States despises him. It might laugh in his face and pretend to glorify him, like what they did with Al-Sadat, hero of peace; it gave him a Nobel prize; it deceived him like a child. He was a laughingstock. It knew he was a traitor and that he had no conscience. It deceived him by the peace process, yet it knew it was not a peace process, but a destruction process for the Arab nation, an annihilation process, slaughtering Palestinians, Syrians, Lebanese and Libyans. [passage omitted recalling how the allies in World War I deceived the Arabs and then occupied the Arab countries]

The Husayn-McMahon correspondence is known in history. An Englishman called McMahon. See how the United States exaggerated in deceiving him; it said your land is sacred, only Muslims could go in, it cannot go in. Now the United States is desecrating the Arab Peninsula and Mecca [words indistinct] and fly over it with its aircraft, walk all over it. Bars and nightclubs are in Mecca, not only in the Arab Peninsula, Mecca itself, the city of Mecca. Perhaps not inside the Grand Mosque, but once you leave the Grand Mosque, the nearby shops in Mecca and the buildings are all bars, brokers, robbers, usurers and all bad things. The foreigners are there; Americans are everywhere in that peninsula.

In the days of (McMahon) it said we cannot enter this land, it is sacred, we will negotiate with you in the sea. They came in a ship, they deceived him. Then they took it all. [passage omitted on how British deceived the Arabs in World War I]

They fight us because we are not agents. They consider us another stubborn opponent which should be destroyed. They did not say to us: Excellencies. They did not give us the Nobel prize. They gave us laser bombs. And how many tons have they dropped on us because they have no means of reaching an understanding with us? The Americans say they want to occupy this homeland, and then they say no. There is no way other than their crushing. Even when they are dropping bombs on us they consider us opponents, not agents. But they became friendly with Al-Sadat; therefore, they consider him despicable, their agent, but they consider us free men. The free men of this country should be destroyed. And the agents of this country should be assisted. They call them agents, slaves; this country is ours. As to the free men of this country, they should be eliminated. People want to be free. This is enough for us. [passage omitted]

This is the task facing you. As you have heard me address your brothers over the radio, I told you not to rely on anyone, and this is the prevailing feeling now—reliance. We rely on others as though these serious tasks are the tasks of others. No, it is your task. Tomorrow you remain on your own, together with your children, without your kinfolk or grandfathers, and you come face to face with the United States, with the Israelis, with reactionaries. This is the task before you, a serious one, and you should prepare for it; you sould study and learn for it, because without it you cannot live. You can say: I study, but what have I to do with this state? It comes to you at school, while you eat, during your sleep, in your courtyard. If there is aggression, it poses danger to your life. If there is exploitation, you will be the one exploited. [passage omitted]

Do not say I am not in the revolutionary committee; I am interested in my studies. What is the revolutionary committee? The revolutionary committee says that you should prepare the instrument for the achievement of equality, the elimination of exploitation. All Libyans should have equal homes, equal farms, equal status. The United States should not take our land, the Israelis should leave our land. What does the revolutionary committee say? It says talk like this. Then you come and say: I am not related to these issues? If so, who are you? Even if there is a tied donkey in Libya, this issue concerns him, because U.S. bombs fall on it. [passage omitted]

The revolutionary committee mobilizes all capabilities. It tells you there is an enemy, there is a battle. You should not allow one to occupy and colonize your country, humiliate you and take your home, your farm and your share of the wealth. You should be free. Libya belongs to you all, Libyans. What once existed was injustice. It is unfair for one to own apartment buildings and rent them to you. [passage omitted]

Our land is our destiny, how could we leave it with a traitor? They had given him the money for it. Where is he now, living with this money? We can see he is still alive and rich with his sons, living by the money of our land. And you now have to pay with your necks. All right, if you and your families were to be asked about the borders and what has happened to them, you would say: What about the borders? They belong to the government. It is your land, and ultimately you would have to pay for it. [passage omitted on other examples of those shying away from political involvement ultimately paying the price]

These matters concern you, and you must understand and teach your sons when you become teachers.

I have told you that Arab nationalism is weak in this area because it did not achieve national unity, and for this reason strange things have happened. For instance, the Iranian revolution now claims that it will liberate the Arab homeland and Palestine. What does this mean? It means Arabs are weak. [chants] They claim they are liberating Palestine and the Arab homeland, which means the Arabs are weak and incapable of liberating Palestine. Religious movements appear in the Arab homeland claiming that Arab nationalism has failed and that a religious movement should replace it. This indeed indicates the weakness of Arab nationalism.

If the movements from within and from without come forward, then while this does not mean they will succeed, it does show that the basic force has weakened; Arab nationalism has weakened. There is no such thing as a nation coming to defend another nation. But we believe the Persian nation is our sister nation; they are our brothers; they are welcome. We are on their side against the United States, and they are on our side against Zionism. But it is not possible for it to liberate the Arab nation. The Arab nation will liberate itself, or it will be ransomed and become a hostage to others. When the Turks came and said the Arabs are weak and we should liberate them from Western Christian colonization, what did they become? They took the Arab homeland. We became hostages with them. They did indeed fight those like Sulayman Pasha and others you hear about. And with all the battles they fought throughout the Arab homeland from east to west against the West, the ultimate result was that the Turks took the Arab countries for as long as they were unable to defend themselves. There comes Sulayman Pasha to defend Libya, but he stays to be a wali [governor] on it. It is all very well for the Iranian revolutionaries to come to defend the Arab homeland, but they would rule it. This is what it means. If the nation was unable to defend itself, those defending it would take control of its land. Do you understand? This is what would happen.

Next we might find some of you tomorrow or the day after tomorrow duped and saying he has joined the Muslim Brotherhood or the Islamic Liberation Party. Now who works for the United States? The Muslim Brotherhood. Now when you say you are a member of the Brotherhood, it means you are a U.S. agent because the Muslim Brotherhood opposes Arab unity, Arab nationalism, socialism, liberation, and even women, whom they want to wrap up in 100 veils and keep at home like a piece of furniture for the men. [chants] They assume a few pieces of cloth will protect her. This will not protect her, but her strong will—that is what will protect her. [chants]

What protects women is their will and arms; their handguns and rifles, knowledge, and strength of personality; their morale—a piece of cloth will not protect her honor. It can be torn to shreds. If we think like this, we are ignorant and understand nothing. Protection comes from within, not from without. Let a woman dress in sports shorts but have a strong will; can anyone have a second thought about her? And let another one with a weak will be covered with clothes; what use will this cloth have?

This is revolutionary thinking, not reactionary and superficial thoughts. Everything is just appearance. Even independence is just appearance: just to have a flag, an anthem, and a name for the kingdom or the republic. Is that all the country becomes with independence? Has it became independent when we have a flag, while inside we have foreign forces, exploitation, foreign bases, foreign exploitation, and complete foreign control without any freedom or free will? We just give appearances having a flag raised in the morning and lowered in the evening with some music. Does this mean the country is independent if it has a king or a president, Mr so-and-so? Everything, even the veil, is just an image.

The veil is not a material one, but a moral one. The strength is the veil. Does not the word veil mean protection? To veil something from another—this means protection. Therefore, strength is what protects you. Material and moral strength are the protection. This is the veil. Do you understand? You should understand these things, and not only read things like X, I, Y, and other theories. Materials without political awareness will lead to nothing. Also, not to learn modern science and keep chanting all the time, will not do. [passage omitted on necessity of cultivating political awareness]

If you do not understand that the Muslim Brotherhood is a donkey which America rides today in the Arab homeland, then you do not understand anything. The Muslim Brotherhood does not exist in other Islamic countries. It only exists in Arab countries. Why? To destroy pan-Arabism and the Arab nation. Go to other countries; you will not find the Muslim Brotherhood. The Muslim Brotherhood is specially planted from abroad in the Arab homeland. Members of the Muslim Brotherhood are now too inhibited to say: We are members of the Muslim Brotherhood. They lie and falsify their names, they falsify their papers. They do not say Muslim Brotherhood any more because the appellation Muslim Brotherhood means agents of America, dirt, right wing, and reaction; it means a silly beard and ignorance. That is it; they are exposed. For decades the Muslim Brothers have been exposed. They are the worst of God's enemies. They are agents, ignorant, silly, and they are the scum of the Arab society. They are the ones who harm Islam. Now they are ashamed to say Muslim Brothers. They now conceal all their papers and get new papers which do not say Muslim Brothers. They say followers of Islam, vanguard of Islam, Islamic movement, fundamentalists, but these are all coverups. The term Muslim Brothers means the worst of God's enemies.

If tomorrow a Muslim Brother comes to you and dupes you, this would be exactly similar to when McMahon duped Sharif Husayn, and the Americans and Israelis duped Al-Sadat and the king of Morocco. They said to him: Bring Peres to visit Morocco, and we will give you aid. Prove that you are our friend; the proof is to defy all the Arabs and bring the chief of Israeli Jews to visit your country. They duped him. They have not given him anything until now. He weeps and begs them; did you not say that you would give me aid? What can we give you? We have [word indistinct]. We want you as an agent, and we want the Israelis to complete their absorption, and not to seem to be enemies of the Arabs, and to control this region and serve the interests of America. This is an advanced basis for the West and for America. We want it to spread and continue. This is similar to those who restored their relations with Egypt—the same thing: indirect recognition of the Israelis. This is American policy.

If someone comes to you and tries to dupe you in the name of Islam, and you are praying, you pray: But leave me alone. It is good to pray. If you pray, they come to you. If they see that you are a sinner, and you know your sins and feel that you are deviating, then they come to you and say: We can get you forgiveness; come with us. This is very strange—people or a party that can get forgiveness of sins. This way we do not need God, and we do not want him anymore. The leaders of the Muslim Brothers [words indistinct] America; they can forgive sins. You used to take drugs, get drunk, and not pray, and you want forgiveness for your sins. All right, come with us, come with us against revolution, against socialism, against Arab unity, and against the Soviet Union. Do these things get forgiveness for sins on doomsday? This is very good! This is a new dossier, new religion, of which we have never heard. Come against Arab unity and pan-Arabism, and we will forgive your sins. But God did not say that. The true religion did not say that. The true religion did not say go against these things, and we will forgive your sins.

This is all due to the lack of awareness. You will be lost and weep in prison when they catch you. We say awareness. We will say to you: You joined a group which serves America, and it is called Muslim Brotherhood; they are agents of America. Then you will weep in prison because you have no awareness. Theories will not help you in place of awareness. Get all the knowledge on earth and heaven, but without political awareness you will be weeping. They will tell you: You have joined a group. Then you will say: A group [words indistinct] and agents of the CIA, and I joined them because I was a fool. This is because when we tell you to read politics, join the revolutionary committee, and attend the political revolutionary lectures, you say: No, no, leave me alone to study. Leaving you alone led you to be involved in something you do not understand.

Then we see the Islamic Liberation Party. By God, this is a tempting name: a liberation party and also Islamic. Great. Who created it? It was created by the British and Israeli intelligence services in 1948 when all the Arabs went to the Palestine war and cried: Jihad, jihad [words indistinct]. The British, specifically the British intelligence service and the Israeli intelligence service, brought someone called (?Nabahani) and said to him: Look, you are a shakyh and have a long beard. Here is money. Stay with us; leave the jihad movement which erupted in Palestine among the Arabs against the Jews. Catch them for us.

They said to him: Okay, start a party called the Liberation Party, and whoever wants to liberate Palestine can join the party. When they join the party, close the doors and lock them in. How did he lock them in? He issued a call saying that anyone who wanted to liberate Palestine and join the jihad should come here and join the Islamic Liberation Party and that any jihad outside the Islamic Liberation Party was unacceptable. The poor naive people believed him. They saw a shaykh with a long beard which he colored with henna, a shaykh with prayer beads of very large stones. They were simple people who thought he was close to God. This is because they had no political awareness. He duped them and brought them into the Liberation Party.

Those who fought and were full of enthusiasm joined the Liberation Party. After they joined, he issued another call saying the door is closed for jihad. When will it be open? It will be open when all Muslims unite and have a caliphate; only then will the door of jihad be open because the caliphate is the one which orders jihad. Do not go to Palestine. Where is the caliphate which gave you permission? Palestine is occupied by Jews. He said: No, do not go until you have the permission of the caliphate. Where is the caliphate? Not until you unite [words indistinct].

Unfortunately, until today, this thinking, this ridiculous thing, still continues in the name of the Islamic Liberation Party, and it recruits people. Its leaders are in Jordan and Kuwait. They recruit youth and dupe them with the fallacy that a caliphate regime should be established. We have just rid ourselves of the harms of a caliphate regime, its voice, prisons, and sword. Now we are expected to return again to the Dark Ages and the age of the caliphate? In the name of the caliphate the Turks occupied us for 600 years. In the name of the caliphate they slaughtered us. In the name of the caliphate we could not open our mouths.

The caliphate regime is a heresy. Who brought it? Did God say, create a caliphate? Does the Koran contain anything about the existence of a caliphate after the prophet, or about Muslims being governed by a caliphate?

The prophet himself was not a ruler. He was not interested in world issues. Have any government as long as you say there is only one God. They made the prophet a ruler. They made him into a king, a prince, prince of the faithful. This is wrong. Even Omar Ibn al-Khattab, [not further identified] whom they call prince of the faithful [words indistinct] because in Persian there were princes. When they came to Omar Ibn al-Khattab, they said: Peace be upon you, Prince of the faithful. He said: Where did you get this term? They said: It applies to you because the ruler should be a prince, and since you are a prince and your people are faithful, you are therefore prince of the faithful. They liked it; at that time they liked it. They said: The term prince of the faithful is good. [passage omitted on the term prince of the faithful as a heresy created by the Persians before Iran became a Muslim country]

A caliph is someone with whom you cannot argue. If a caliph does something wrong, you would not be able to tell him this is wrong because he is a caliph. This means that religion and politics are tied together. This is the most dangerous thing, if the ruler has a religious characteristic. That is it; you have to obey him. If he says that his daughter will become your queen, then you would not be able to tell him no. He is a ruler, God's messenger, and the caliph of God's messenger. He is the caliphate, and he is from God and God's shadow on earth. How can you disobey him? You cannot.

He says to you: This idiot son of mine will become your king. He drools, but he will be your king. This is my wish. I am sacred. I am the ruler. I am the caliph of God's messenger and God's shadow on earth. With a sword I will strike off the head of anyone who says no. During the days of the caliphates, people's heads were cut off. During the last of these days a Turk claimed to be a caliph. The Turkish ruler declared himself caliph. Why? To rule the Arab countries because the Arab countries cannot be ruled unless he tells them: I am the one who follows the one following the one who follows God's messenger. That is right. He duped us, and for 600 years we were ruled by Turkish regime in the name of this caliphate regime.

Now comes the Islamic Liberation Party, this rotten reactionary party, and it tries to take us back to the caliphate days. We are now in the era of the masses. We do not even accept a president. [passage omitted on concepts of the caliphate, kingdoms, or republics being outdated]

This awareness is necessary. You must write down and keep this speech in your pockets to read. It should be distributed to you in the form of a booklet, for you to sit and examine. Without political awareness, your future will be lost. This does not concern me or my grandfather; it concerns you, your sons, and their sons. You must understand it. It was good of me to take the trouble to come here to tell you this because it concerns your future. And as I told your brothers yesterday, everything now being done is for your sake. [passage omitted on significance of various industrial projects being built]

This awareness is necessary. Political parties might deceive you. A party might approach you in a certain name. Well, where were you, this party, in 1948 and in 1956 and in 1982 when the Israelis swept over Lebanon? Where were you in 1967 and during all the setbacks and defeats? Where were you? It is only that someone wants to be leader of the people, and that is all. You have seen them in the Arab countries, various parties, and yet what was the result? Only for someone to lead the people.

You have seen the Muslim Brotherhood. We caught them in Libya. From where did they come? They came from America. Who was their leader? An American intelligence officer was the leader of the Libyan Muslim Brotherhood. What was their fate? Without regrets we slaughtered them like sheep and goats. We let the elderly women and other people trample them under their feet and spit on them in the street. This was their fate. Let the American from intelligence inflate you. What bothers the American? If you succeed, you accomplish his objective or you die yourselves. You let someone laugh at you!

Listen, religion is not by beard, or clothes, or appearance, or veil, or headwear. Religion is a faith from within, and no one can teach you religion; only the Koran. There is no religion outside the Koran. Anything outside the Koran—throw it away without fear of Allah judging you on it. [passage omitted on the interpretation of the Koran]

Read the Koran and fast and pray. This is enough. You do the things mentioned in the Koran and that is all. [passage omitted on equality between men and women]

Morocco

Mauritanian Minister Arrives For Visit 27 Jan

LD281359 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Casablanca, 28 January (MAP)—Mauritanian Minister of Equipment Hamoud Ould Ely arrived here Wednesday on a visit to Morocco.

The Mauritanian official is bearing a message from President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya to King Hassan II.

Delivers Message to King

LD282126 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] The royal activities today were distinguished by an audience which His Majesty King Hassan II had with Hamoud Ould Ely, Mauritanian minister of Equipment and acting foreign minister, who made a statement to the radio.

The Mauritanian minister expressed happiness with this meeting, which had enabled him to present the monarch with a message of friendship and fraternity from President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Comments on Ties With Egypt, Ethiopia

PM291523 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 27 Jan 88 pp 16-17

[Interview with Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi by Talhah Jibril in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] [Jibril] Has the investigation into the assassination of [Iraqi opposition figure] Mahdi Muhsin al-Hakim revealed anything?

[Al-Mahdi] The investigation is being conducted in complete secrecy. We will not announce anything until it is over. However, it is certain that the operation was the work of an Arab. No Sudanese were involved.

[Jibril] Don't you think the operation has had a negative impact on the security situation in Sudan? After all, it occurred in a place that was supposed to get special security attention and at the time of an Arab ministerial conference in Khartoum.

[Al-Mahdi] Assassinations can occur anywhere at any time, even in such great capitals as London and Paris. What we will do in light of the investigations is close all the gaps that made that incident possible. Sudan condemns acts of violence and terrorism from any source, and does not permit them, for they bear no relationship to our traditions.

[Jibril] If the investigations reveal that an Arab state was involved in the assassination, what would Sudan's attitude be?

[Al-Mahdi] We will cross that bridge when we come to it, but let me say that we do not make policy on the basis of assumptions. We will protect Sudan's security against acts of violence, and against anyone who tampers with rights and the law. We will do whatever we must to accomplish this, and to the fullest possible extent.

[Jibril] Have any arrests been made?

[Al-Mahdi] No, there have been no arrests thus far.

[Jibril] I see that an Egyptian delegation, including some military personnel, visited Sudan recently. Despite that, there is no mention of Egypt whenever references are made to states that have given aid to Sudan.

[Al-Mahdi] In my speech at the Constituent Assembly (parliament) I clarified and listed those states that have offered aid, and I gave the amount of such aid. I listed these states in order of the significance of their assistance. There is no need to add anything regarding a matter which I fully explained in my Constituent Assembly speech.

[Jibril] The purpose of the question was to seek clarification and explanation.

[Al-Mahdi] Perhaps you want me to comment on the matter, but I do not want to do so. I have given the facts about the states that have given aid to Sudan in the order I mentioned them.

[Jibril] As for Egyptian-Sudanese relations, some say that Cairo is confused about Sudan's foreign policy, particularly its policy toward Egypt. Do you have any comment?

[Al-Mahdi] I see no reason for confusion. Under Numayri, Sudan followed a policy of alignment and blocs. After the uprising, Sudan's policy became one of nonalignment and no blocs. There is nothing ambiguous about that. Regarding our ties with Egypt, a basic meeting was held at the start of last year during which we concluded what we called a brotherhood agreement. That accord set forth the basis and horizons of cooperation between the two countries. It was also agreed that the prime ministers of the two countries would meet to work out the details of a brotherhood program in various fields; that will happen. I see no reason for confusion. Sudan's foreign policy regarding the entire world is very clear. What part of it is not?

[Jibril] The Egyptians may have made some observations about Sudanese-Libyan relations.

[Al-Mahdi] Sudan's relations with all states are determined in accordance with Sudan's interests. This is our declared and clear policy. If anyone has an opinion about that, they are entitled to it, but there is nothing vague about Sudan's position.

[Jibril] But do you not believe that close ties with Libya would have a negative impact on Egyptian-Sudanese relations?

[Al-Mahdi] They should not have a negative impact, as Sudan decides its own policy and expects others to respect it.

[Jibril] In the same vein, concerning Sudan's position on the Gulf war—despite your support for Security Council Resolution 598—some people feel Sudan's stand is positive [as published] and may lean more toward Iran's viewpoint. What is your answer to that?

[Al-Mahdi] Does Iran support Resolution 598?

[Jibril] I do not believe so.

[Al-Mahdi] So how could our position be pro-Iranian? Some people want to make up Sudan's mind for it. That is their business, but in the final analysis Sudan decides its own policies.

[Jibril] But there are those who believe that because of Sudan's position on the Gulf war, its relations with some Gulf states are cool.

[Al-Mahdi] Some people may see it that way, but I do not think that relations between Sudan and the Arab Gulf states are cool.

[Jibril] Let me put it to you directly. After your recent tour of the Gulf states, the Sudanese Government hoped that cooperation between Sudan and these countries would increase. However, it has been claimed that the results of the visit did not meet expectations.

[Al-Mahdi] That is correct, they did not.

[Jibril] Thus, isn't that the result of Sudan's position on the Gulf war?

[Al-Mahdi] Perhaps, but, personally, I do not think so. Sudan does not base its policies on the views of others. We draw up our policies in accordance with our own values, aims, and interests. I do not think that, in practical terms, aid from the Arab Gulf states to Sudan is linked to this point, but the press can say what it likes. In any case, Sudan's policy is clear. Sudan's policy on the Gulf war, and on its Arab, African, and Islamic relations, is crystal clear. The press and the public, however, are free to comment and draw their own conclusions. What is important is that our policy is clear. It is neither ambiguous nor confused.

[Jibril] Despite Sudan's repeated denials of the presence of foreign troops in its territory, some reports claim that such forces are deployed in western Sudan (Darfur Province). What is the truth here?

[Al-Mahdi] There are no reports on the presence of foreign forces, and no one claims foreign forces are in Darfur. However, they do mention militias from time to time.

[Jibril] There have been reports of foreign forces passing through in the direction of Chad.

[Al-Mahdi] They speak not of crossings but of militias belonging to elements opposed to the present regime in Chad and supported by Libya. These are mere allegations. Our view is that there are no foreign forces in Darfur, and that there are no forces or militias there with the knowledge or approval of the Sudanese Government. However, in the event of any infiltration without our knowledge, we have issued clear orders to Sudanese officials to take a hostile stand against any military presence. The Sudanese forces confirm that they are capable of preventing any militia activity and of resisting any plundering that may be involved. We imagine that some unauthorized militia infiltration may occur at some point, because Darfur is as big as Japan, but we will not tolerate any type of armed presence, even at the militia level. The Armed Forces confirm, on the basis of their control and combing operations in the province, that there is no foreign presence. At a recent security conference in Darfur, I clearly stated Sudan's policy on this matter, but some circles still try to confuse the issue. Some people in Chad itself want to secure foreign aid by casting doubt on Sudan's position. There are those with an interest in undermining Sudan's relations with Chad, and they spread such rumors. We, at any rate, are satisfied that our policy is clear on this issue and that our forces are ready to handle any kind of foreign presence in Darfur. We hear rumors. These rumors come from two types of sources: One, inside Chad, seeks to cloud Sudan's position in pursuit of more foreign aid, and the other which wants to harm relations between Sudan and Chad.

[Jibril] After your meeting with Ethiopian Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam in Kampala, it was agreed that joint ministerial committees would hold follow-up meetings, but so far no such meetings have been held. There are conflicting reports on this, so what can you tell us about it?

[Al-Mahdi] After the Kampala meeting we agreed to discuss bilateral relations through diplomatic channels but a problem has arisen as to the venue of the first meeting. There are several proposals, and I believe this matter will be resolved.

[Jibril] On the same subject, do you believe that Ethiopia links the problem of the south to the Eritrean question?

[Al-Mahdi] Yes, I believe that the Ethiopians consider the question of the mutiny in the south in the context of their feelings and views on the anti-Ethiopia movements. I think they link these things.

[Jibril] Does Sudan have any ideas for a solution for the Eritrean problem?

[Al-Mahdi] We believe that these problems should be solved peacefully, within the framework of sovereignty, and with a view to ending the bloodshed and turning to reconstruction. However, Sudan believes that its paramount duty is to find solutions to its own internal problems. Only then can it help others to the extent that satisfies the parties concerned.

[Jibril] The Sudanese Government has held several meetings with John Garang, despite the fact that the state sees his movement as a rebellion. The government still expresses readiness for dialogue with Garang but the Ethiopians reject any dialogue with the Eritreans. Do you not believe that this could affect Sudanese-Ethiopian relations?

[Al-Mahdi] That need not have any negative effect on bilateral relations, but I do believe that Sudan's method is the better way. Eventually, the better approach will play the decisive part. If ours succeeds, it would set an example for similar situations. That is how we look at it, for Sudan would not only be solving that particular problem, but would also be setting an example to be followed in other, similar situations.

Further on Visit by Libyan Military Delegation

Received by Taj al-Din

JN281809 Khartoum SUNA in English 1716 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 28 (SUNA)—Member of the Council of State Dr. 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din met here today with the Libyan military delegation, currently visiting the country.

The Libyan ambassador to Sudan, who attended the encounter, told reporters that the military delegation had expressed to Dr. Taj al-Din Libya's readiness to enhance its relations with Sudan in all domains.

"The Libyan delegates confirmed that the challenges facing the Arabs require more bolstering of Arab relations", the ambassador said.

Sudanese Ambassador to Libya 'Abd al-Majid Bashir al-Ahmadi, who attended the meeting said the visit of the Libyan delegation comes within the context of military cooperation between the two countries.

The visiting delegation will leave for Libya tomorrow.

Thanked for 'Military Support'

EA290951 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, member of the State Council, met with a visiting Libyan military delegation this morning at his office in the Republican Palace.

Juna'ah al-Mahdi al-Ghazzani, secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Khartoum, said after the meeting that Dr Taj al-Din had conveyed the gratitude of the Sudanese Government and people for the military support provided to Sudan by the Libyan Jamahiriyah. His excellency the ambassador added that Dr Taj al-Din affirmed Sudan's desire to continue deepening Sudanese-Libyan relations in all spheres so as to achieve the ambitions of the two peoples. Dr Taj al-Din stressed the importance of deepening Arab relations in order to meet the challenges facing the Arab community. [passage omitted]

Anya Nya II Group Unites With SPLA-SPLM

EA281439 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Here is an important news [item]: The long-awaited peace settlement between the SPLM-SPLA and Anya Nya II has been concluded. In a statement delivered to Radio SPLA this afternoon, the leader of Anya Nya II, Major General Gordon Kong Chuol, said, and I quote:

I, with this statement, inform all the patriots in SPLM-SPLA and Anya Nya II in particular, and the Sudanese people and the world at large, that the long-awaited peace between SPLM-SPLA and Anya Nya II has been concluded.

We in Anya Nya II are totally convinced that the basic contradictions which existed between the two movements and the wanton hostilities that existed between the two movements had been the brainchild of the enemy policy of divide and rule.

On 25 January 1988 peace and unity agreement has been concluded, putting an end to bloodshed among brothers.

Anya Nya II, as from the above date, 25 January 1988, is completely integrated into SPLM-SPLA under one flag and one objective; that is, the total liberation of our homeland, the Sudan.

All Anya Nya II officers and men wherever they are, especially Paulino Matib, (Knog Bany Fing) are hereby informed as from above that southerners are to stop killing each other and to unite as one force against the ruling clique in Khartoum.

The SPLM-SPLA provided 1,500 rifles for arming the unarmed Anya Nya II force.

All Sudanese, especially southerners, still serving the enemy in the towns either in the Army, police, prisons, wildlife, and civil service, should from now know that the differences that existed between Anya Nya II and SPLM-SPLA have been finally resolved and that we are now to pursue one goal.

Long live the struggle and unity of the oppressed people of Sudan. Long live SPLM-SPLA. Forward ever, backward never.

[Signed] Maj Gen Gordon Kong Chuol.

Garang Statement on 'Unity'

EA281757 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] This statement is from the SPLM-SPLA chairman and commander in chief, John Garang de Mabior. On the occasion of unity between SPLM-SPLA and Anya Nya II, the office of the chairman and commander in chief SPLM-SPLA today released the following statement:

1. The chairman-commander in chief SPLM-SPLA, congratulates the Sudanese people for this giant step forward toward the unity of the country and people. This unity was achieved over a long period of 10 months of patience and correct political work in the methods of resolving nonbasic contradictions

2. The chairman-commander in chief warmly congratulates all those who persevered to make this unity possible. Special mention must be made to those who started the initial groundwork 10 months ago. On the SPLA side, Captain (James Othmai), commander of (Yonyi) Battalion, and his officers and men; and on Anya Nya II side, the commander of (Jokmir), Comrade (David Gok Sok), and his officers and men. Later, the peace and unity process was joined by Comrade Daniel Kuot Matthews and David Dak, who spent 6 months in the field and gave additional impetus to the process. This initial talk's groundwork resulted in the Bokting agreement and declaration of intent to unite, cessation of hostilities, and disassociation of Anya Nya II from the enemy.

The Anya Nya II delegation to the Addis Ababa talks between the SPLM-SPLA and the African parties, which was led by Comrade David Bidit Deang, made a tremendous contribution to the peace and unity process. Individual and political forces operating within Sudan's pseudo-liberal, democratic, legal framework also contributed their share. These include the two families [Al-Mahdi and Al-Mirghani] by default of their arrogance and taking of Anya Nya II as a mere instrument to be used.

Subsequently, the Jokau conference was held to thrash out the basic terms of unity. The SPLM-SPLA committee was headed by Commander Arok Thuon Arok, while the Anya Nya II side was headed by Comrade David Bidit Deang. This resulted in the Jokau peace agreement, affirming the Bokting declaration and setting out necessary steps to achieve the unity. These steps were finally taken last week by the SPLA chief of staff, Commander William Nyuan Bany, and the Anya Nya II leader, Major General Gordon Kong Chuol, who concluded the final unity. Mention must also be made of the movement's Sudanese Women's Association for hosting the various conferences in Bokting and Jokau and for their effective participation in the deliberation.

3. On behalf of the SPLM-SPLA High Command and of the Sudanese people, and on his own behalf, the chairman and commander in chief thanked all those above people and many others, not to mention their tireless efforts that have finally borne this fruit of real unity. The integration of Anya Nya II into the SPLA is yet another deadly blow to the sectarian regime in Khartoum. The incorporation of Anya Nya II into the SPLA and of Murle, Toposa, Didinga, and Mundari militias completely discredits Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's five-point false philosophy that he will conquer the south and the Sudan through divide-and-rule policies in the form of arming tribal militias against the SPLA and against each other.

4. The chairman and commander in chief SPLM-SPLA is pleased to announce to the Sudanese people that the unity between SPLA and Anya Nya II—that Khartoum shamelessly and arrogantly calls friendly forces within their own country—is not propaganda. It is real unity; and proof of its concreteness is that yesterday, 27 January 1988, combined SPLA and Anya Nya II units under the command of the SPLA Chief of Staff, Commander William Nyuan Bany, and Anya Nya II leader Gordon Kong Chuol launched a major offensive on the enemy army garrison at Nasir, which used to supply the Anya Nya II with logistics to fight the SPLA. Heavy fighting is now continuing in Nasir and this is a green signal to Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi that he cannot fool and use people all the time and that arming tribal militias is a double-edged sword that can cut him as well, as it is doing now in Nasir.

5. On this occasion of unity between SPLA and Anya Nya II, the chairman and commander in chief appealed to those youths who might have been put off by the differences between Anya Nya II and SPLA to join the movement immediately, as there is nothing to inhibit them any more.

Also on the occasion of the fall of Kapoeta, the chairman and commander in chief appeals to the youth of Equatoria to join the movement immediately and contribute their share to the people's struggle, as the gates of Equatoria to the movement have been effectively opened in Kapoeta. To all the youth, the chairman and commander in chief assures them that the future does not lie in the sectarian governments in Khartoum nor in the meaningless, toothless, and corrupt southern governments of squatters in Juba, Wau, Malakal; and victory lies with the SPLA, (?not) with these fake governments, that the future belongs to you, the youth. And you must play your effective role, especially now that the conflict between the Anya Nya II and SPLA is over and the gates of Equatoria have been opened in Kapoeta. For the youth of Equatoria, all that they have to do now is to walk to Kapoeta and get trained there. No more walking for hundreds of miles. We are now around Juba, Torit, Yei, and Maridi. You must simply walk to one of our camps near the these towns and from there to our new training centers in Kapoeta.

Long live the unity of the Sudanese people. Long live the struggle of the oppressed masses of the Sudan. Victory to the formation of the new Sudan of peace, prosperity, equality, and justice to all, irrespective of race, religion, or family background. The struggle continues, and victory is certain.

Al-Banna Says Army Capable of Taking Kapoeta

JN281810 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan, 28 (SUNA)—Member of the Council of State Idris al-Banna has affirmed that the Armed Forces are capable to liberate the southern Sudan town of Kapoeta, now under the rebel movement control.

In press statements today Al-Banna said the restoring of Kapoeta will be done as soon as possible pointing that the military option is not going to solve the problem while opening channels of dialogue is imperative for ending the civil war in the south.

He renewed the call for preparing the convenient atmosphere for the convening of the proposed constitutional conference.

Army Source Denies Rebels Surrounding Torit

JN281128 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 28 (SUNA)—Casualties of the Armed Forces in Kapoeta area were only four while the losses of the rebels are not known yet, an Armed Forces source told AL-HADAF newspaper.

The source affirmed that 80 percent of the people who fled to Uganda following the evacuation of Kapoeta town by the Armed Forces last Monday were civilians.

The source denied that the rebels are encircling Torit town in Equatoria Province.

It is worth noting that the Army evacuated Kapoeta to maintain the lives of the people after it had been besieged by a great number of the rebels.

'Foreign Backing' Increases Rebel Activities

JN281825 Khartoum SUNA in English 1750 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 28 (SUNA)—The activities of the rebels forces of Col. John Garang have recently increased in the eastern part of Equatoria due to the foreign backing which they received, the governor of Equatoria region said.

Failing to identify the foreign backing for the rebels forces, Major General Peter Sirillyo confirmed, in a press statement issued here yesterday, that the Sudan People's Liberation Army "SPLA" has intensified its moves covering areas from the Upper Nile and Bahr al-Ghazal regions to Kapoeta town-eastern Equatoria.

The People Armed Forces will counter the move of the "SPLA" Sirillyo said adding that the central government was acquainted with the development of the situation.

The eastern Equatoria town of Kapoeta was captured by SPLA two weeks ago.

SPLA Radio Reports Land Mine Attacks, Casualties

EA281752 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Reports from Bentiu say two enemy lorries have been destroyed by land mines blast between Rub Kona [as heard] and (?a bridge site). The mines were planted by SPLA forces of the Western Upper Nile zonal command under the overall command of Commander Riak Machar Teng, alternate member of SPLM/SPLA political-military high command.

A land mine planted by units of Shakkush Task Force No 1 under the direct command of Alternate Commander John Kong Nyon exploded under a lorry No EE-8689, carrying enemy troops at (Faty) Mountain on Yei-Kaia road on the 20th of January 1988. Correspondent says that the truck was completely destroyed, killing nine enemy soldiers and injuring five others. Among the victims were also policemen, one of whom was identified as a medical assistant serving at Kaia police post. He was seriously injured in the blast.

Bahrain

Decree Issued on 1988 General Budget

JN281447 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Manama, 28 Jan (WAKH)—A decree issued by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, deputy amir of Bahrain, was published in today's issue of the official Bahraini gazette ordering the implementation of Bahrain's general budget for fiscal year 1988. The decree stipulates that the state revenues in the current fiscal year are estimated at 430 million [Bahraini] dinars and that expenditures in fiscal 1988 are estimated at 490 million dinars.

The decree also stipulates that the deficit in the current year's budget will be covered through national loans. It defined the areas of expenditure as follows: recurrent expenditures at 365 million dinars and expenditures on projects at 125 million dinars. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Al-Dali Holds News Conference on Palestinians

EA282011 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, Central Committee member and foreign minister, held a news conference at the Ministry of Industry and Trade building this morning. It was devoted to the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the results of the emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers, and the political and cultural activities staged in our country in solidarity with the valiant uprising of the Palestinian Arab people.

At the news conference, which was attended by representatives of information organs and correspondents from Arab and foreign news agencies, Brother al-Dali said that the uprising of the Palestinian Arab people came as a result of long suffering by a people who have been deprived of their simplest civil and human rights. He pointed out that despite all the vicious and savage treatment being carried out by the authorities of the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian people, they have not yielded and have vigorously resisted.

The uprising, which was characterized by its comprehensiveness, with the participation of all groups of Palestinians despite their political and cultural differences, is proof that the Palestinian people are able to fight the occupation until they win their full rights and build an independent state on their national soil under the leadership of their legitimate and sole representative—the PLO. [passage omitted]

In his reply to questions, Brother al-Dali affirmed that Democratic Yemen's position on the Palestinian issue and the holding of an international peace conference in the Middle East is a firm one that arises from previous special policies of support for the Palestinian people in determining their destiny and building their independent state. We always adhere to it and call on the Palestinian brothers to further adhere to their unity.

He affirmed that Democratic Yemen has from the outset supported the call put forward by the Soviet Union for holding an international conference on the Middle East. At the same time, it appreciates the efforts being made by the Soviet Union to achieve the goals of the Palestinian people to determine their destiny, considering it to be the most practical and the best framework for reaching a solution to the Middle East and the Palestinian issue, in view of the fact that it is the essence of this issue.

Saudi Arabia

Turkish Claims on Forces for Kingdom Denied

LD281750 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Jan (SPA)—A responsible source has denied reports in the Turkish MILLI GAZETE and SAN HAVADIS on 26 January on what they referred to as Turkish forces for Saudi Arabia.

The source told SPA that "at a time when the Kingdom is eager to maintain its friendly relations with Turkey, it has never discussed this matter with any side, whether directly or through any middlemen."

President Warns of Iranian Moves Against GCC

JN281226 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 28, (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has stressed that Iraq's victory in the war against Iran means that the hostile slogan, which Khomeyni espoused and sparked off the war with, is crushed.

President Husayn stressed, in an interview given recently to editors-in-chief of Saudi dailies AL-YAWM and AL-MADINAH, as well as to deputy editor-in-chief of AL-JAZIRAH paper, "When Khoemyni is defeated in the war he is going to lose all his aggressive, expansionist and sectarian ground... merely when the war comes to an end with Khomeyni winning nothing this means that he is defeated," President Husayn said.

His excellency added "when the war ends, with us winning nothing, in other words that we take hold of no Iranian land neither topple Khomeyni's regime, yet preserve Iraq and principles of the nation this means that we have won, as we have crushed the aggressive slogan."

The Iraq-Iran war would come to an end, President Husayn said when Khomeyni "starts to lose more than winning inside Iran out of dealing with the slogan of continuation of war, when anti-war slogans are heard louder in Iran and when Khomeyni has lost the essential foundation on which he has based his expansionist ideology."

President Husayn mentioned that such a result could be achieved through steadfastness of Iraq, against which all attempts would collapse, and through a serious Arab stand, demonstrating that the Arabs could serve as a depth for Iraq... such a stand would leave its moral and practical impact on Iraq's steadfastness, on the one hand, and would shake psychological and ideological ground of Iranian citizens on the other." [quotation marks as received]

Referring to the international stand, President Husayn said that a real and serious change on the level of the international stand could achieved through Iraq's steadfastness and an Arab depth of backing Iraq in its battle in all fields and aspects starting with a strong official announced declaration and adopting resolutions plus the disclosure of Iranian aggressiveness.

President Husayn said that Iranians should be aware that with continuation of their war, "they would lose more and more, sap bloods and face an economic crisis inside Iran".

The president warned that Iran is attempting now to oust some members of the Gulf Cooperation Council from the unified stand and tries to disintegrate the GCC stand so that they could deal with each member state unilaterally.

President Husayn stressed that aborting this conspiracy lies with mobilization of potentials and solidarity, rejection of Iranian manoeuvers and coordinating the Arab and also the international stand.

President Husayn stressed that Iraq would crush any Iranian attempt to take hold of any small plot of Iraqi territory and that Iraqi defensive lines would remain invulnerable.

Referring to the situation in the front, President Husayn said the Iranians are making preparations and wait for an opportunity and that Iraq is getting prepared for bringing to failure this opportunity.

"Thank God, Iraq is stronger than them and with passage of time they become weaker", President Husayn said.

His excellency stressed that Iraq interacts with any hope or opportunity for the comprehensive termination of the war and that it is neither in the interest of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples nor the Arab nation or the human trend to have military hostilities stopped without ending the war itself.... after a lot of blood been sapped and things pushed to dangerous courses that have become a threat to the security of the region and the world.

President Husayn said that what is required is a final and comprehensive end to the war and both Iraq and Iran preserve their integral sovereignty and exercise their options according to their interpretations without interference in the each other internal affairs.

Dailies Assail Syrian Stands on Gulf War

JN281153 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 28, (INA)—Two Iraqi papers have talked about the suspicious, nationally-disapproved Syrian role, saying that the role played by Damascus regime over the past years caused a rift in intra-Arab relations.

AL-THAWRAH paper said here today that the Syrian [regime] played a subversive role and turned Arab issues of destiny into a trade off.

AL-THAWRAH mentioned "If we want to point out some of the Syrian regime's traitorous stands, the heinous stance it has maintained toward the Iranian aggression on Iraq comes in the forefront...the Syrian regime, setting a dangerous precedence [word indistinct] and shamelessly with the foreign aggressor against a brotherly Arab country."

By doing so, the paper noted, the regime ruling in Syria essentially threatened and endangered Arab national security. Absence of a unified Arab stand, AL-THAWRAH added, led to the emergence of detrimental phenomena, similar to those of the Syrian regime, thus providing parties antagonistic to the Arab nation with the opportunity to deal unilaterally with this or that country, the paper remarked.

The paper added that had it not [been] for the strong edifice of Iraq, against which Iranian offensives had falled apart, and had it not [been] for Iraq which since the outset diagnosed nature of the Khomeyniist clique many things would have happened and harm would have been done to more than one Arab country.

AL-THAWRAH noted "the Syrian regime has always been the 'Trojan Horse' used by enemies of our nation to carry out wicked schemes and pass on hostile goals....on several occasions, the Syrian regime was in a hurry to receive the price of its treason and even sometimes asked to be remunerated for a given stand."

Referring to the multi-faced, opportunist policy of the regime in Syria, AL-THAWRAH stressed "this regime used to bluff some brethern, protraying itself to them as a party capable of exerting influence on the Iranian regime and of preventing the latter from aggressing upon them. Of course there is a price paid for this role, but at the end it turns up that the rulers of Iran have no intention to stop their hostile acts and that Hafiz al-Asad's regime is a full partner in these acts."

"Iraq has always had doubts that the Syrian regime could change its practices or policies, abandon its plot to hit the Palestinian revolution or end its subversive role in Lebanon," AL-THAWRAH noted.

The practices exercised by the Syrian regime in the wake of Amman summit, the organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party said, demonstrated the fact that Damascus regime was unwilling to depart from its anti-Arab nation policies, that it was not interested at all in committing itself to any unanimous Arab resolution or any of joint Arab action bases, but "it is determined to go ahead pursuing twisted policies dangerous to higher Arab interests."

Within this context, AL-JUMHURIYAH paper said in its editorial of today that the new old Syrian position "comes at a time when the reckless Iranian regime is getting ready to mount a fresh offensive on Iraq."

The people of Iraq, who defended eastern border of the nation for years, "denounce any move by the Syrian regime to re-establish pre-Amman summit atmosphere or find loopholes in the Arab bank to serve its purposes and those of its ally, the Zionist Iranian regime," AL-JUMHURIYAH underlined.

AL-JUMHURIYAH explained that Syrian officials and their propaganda channels competed with each other to demonstrate departure from and derision of Amman summit resolutions, only a short time after their adoption. The Syrian regime made a disapproved move toward Iran under the pretext of mediating between Iraq and the Iranian regime to bring the war to a close, AL-JUMHURIYAH said, but all indications pointed out that the Syrian regime had done so motivated by self-interests in order to continue its commercial blackmail and end Arab and international isolation imposed on the regime of Iran.

The Syrian attitude vis-a-vis the Iranian aggression on Iraq "is known...the Syrian regime has sided with the aggressors since the very first moment, extended arms to them, backed them economically and has been since defending them at international fora, thus encouraging them to continue their hostilities against Iraq and the Arab nation."

Reportage on Visit by CSSR Minister Luhovy

Meets With Oil Minister

JN281022 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0842 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jan (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim today met with CSSR Electrotechnical Industry Minister Ladislav Luhovy who is currently visiting Baghdad. The two ministers reviewed relations of cooperation between Iraq and the CSSR.

Received by Ramadan

JN281943 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and RCC member, has received CSSR Electrotechnical Industry Minister Ladislav Luhovy and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the development of bilateral relations and stressed their desire to promote them in all fields. The RCC member stressed Iraq's positive stands toward peace initiatives, the last of which was UN Security Council Resolution 598. He also stressed Iraq's ability, under President Saddam Husayn, to deter any new Iranian aggression.

The CSSR minister reiterated his country's appreciation of Iraq's response to peace initiatives and its acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598. He also expressed his country's desire to promote trade and economic relations with Iraq.

Attending the meeting were Heavy Industries Minister 'Abd al-Tawwab Huwaysh and the CSSR ambassador in Baghdad.

Signs Cooperation Agreement

JN282023 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jan (INA)—Iraq and the CSSR signed the minutes of the meetings of the eighth session of the Iraqi-CSSR joint committee for industrial, technical, scientific, trade, and financial cooperation here today. The minutes stipulate the promotion of cooperation between the two countries in the economic, trade, scientific, and technical fields.

Heavy Industries Minister 'Abd al-Tawwab al-Mullah Huwaysh signed the minutes for the Iraqi side and Electrotechnical Industry Minister Ladislav Lahovy signed for the CSSR side.

Leaves Baghdad 29 Jan

JN290843 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jan (INA)—CSSR Electrotechnical Industry Minister Ladislav Lahovy and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad at dawn today at the end of a 4-day visit to Iraq. During the visit the CSSR minister chaired his country's delegation to the meetings of the eighth session of the Iraqi-CSSR joint committee for industrial, technical, scientific, trade, and financial cooperation.

The CSSR minister said in a statement to INA he was satisfied with the results of his talks with Iraqi officials. He added the coming years will witness further cooperation between the two friendly countries and people.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,002

JN281833 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Communique No 3,002 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces are determined to crush the enemy in every foolish adventure, with God's help, and with the determination of the faithful men who are defending their homeland and struggling for the sake of God and their people. The following is a roundup of our Armed Forces' combat activities for last night and today:

1. An enemy force, estimated at an infantry regiment and backed by tanks, attempted to approach one of our forward units' positions in the I Army Corps northern sector. Our brave men immediately confronted it with all types of weapons, foiled the enemy's unsuccessful attempt, and killed 111 of its personnel and wounded a large number of others. The corpses were left on the battlefield. Three tanks and two armored personnel carriers were also destroyed.

Elsewhere in the same sector, our units engaged groups of scoundrels, their vehicles, and gun emplacements. They killed 179 personnel; destroyed 1 tank, 1 armored personnel carrier, 18 vehicles, 2 infantry positions, and 2 shovels [preceding word in English]; and blew up 21 ammunition dumps.

Thus, the enemy's overall losses in this sector are as follows: 290 scoundrels killed; a large number of scoundrels wounded; 4 tanks, 18 vehicles, 3 armored personnel carriers, 2 shovels, and 2 infantry positions destroyed; and 21 ammunition dumps blown up.

2. A shovel was damaged, four gun emplacements and an infantry position were destroyed, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. Our valiant units in the II Army Corps central sector killed 16 scoundrels and destroyed 4 infantry positions and 1 observation post.

4. Two enemy personnel were killed and a machinegun emplacement was destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. A medium machinegun and seven infantry positions were destroyed and an ammunition dump was blown up in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris.

6. An enemy soldier was killed and two gun emplacements and an observation post were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 January 1988

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN290721 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0708 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 29 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In reaffirmation of great Iraq's measures to impose a siege on the backward Iranian regime's oil resources and to prevent this regime from using these resources to perpetuate the war and commit aggression against our people, our brave hawks carried out an accurate and effective hit against a large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 0500 [0200 GMT] today. Afterwards, they safely returned to base under God's protection and guidance.

[Dated] 29 January 1988

Novik To Hold Talks With Mubarak Aides in U.S.

TA290528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Peres' political adviser, Nimrod Novik, has apparently gone to Washington for talks with members of Egyptian President Mubarak's party there. The Voice of Israel's diplomatic correspondent says Novik's mission is connected with ways of advancing the peace process.

Shamir 'Optimistic' on U.S. Mideast Role

TA291118 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today: I am happy that the United States has joyfully welcomed our ideas. In a meeting with a delegation of presidents of conservative U.S. synagogues, the prime minister added: This morning I am more optimistic because the United States and Secretary of State Shultz have decided to increase their involvement in the peace process.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel points out that this morning the prime minister received a detailed report from Elyaqim Rubinstein, the special envoy he sent to the United States, on the talks he had conducted there with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Peres Aides Show Displeasure at Shultz Remarks

TA281914 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Officials close to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have voiced displeasure over the reports that U.S. Secretary of State Shultz would prefer to work for a version of the autonomy plan rather than an international conference. This from our reporter Jack Katzenell. Sources in Jerusalem said the Foreign Ministry had not yet received official confirmation of the reports neither from Ambassador Moshe Arad in Washington nor from the United States. Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, who is just back from Washington, this evening briefed the Inner Cabinet on his meeting with Secretary of State Shultz.

Shultz Plan Faces Opposition in Likud, Alignment

TA291020 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Jan 88 pp 1, 6

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz]

[Excerpts] The political process aimed at solving the conflict in the Middle East is gathering momentum. All the parties to the conflict are currently awaiting the initiative of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz who is examining several possibilities designed to further the peace process.

According to reports arriving in Jerusalem at around 0100 Israeli time last night, Shultz is considering proposing a combined plan including both an international "opening" and upgraded autonomy.

According to the proposal which is now being drafted, only a ceremonial "opening" of an international conference would be held and the first item on its agenda would be that of "upgraded autonomy." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 29 January on pages one and ten carries a report which says it has learned from unofficial sources that the implementation of the plan would "start in Moscow in May with a meeting of the Israeli and Jordanian leaders with the leaders of the two superpowers."]

It should be noted that Shultz' proposal on "upgraded autonomy" was not discussed in the Inner Cabinet session yesterday, which was devoted to a discussion of new security measures to restore peace in the territories. Nevertheless, Likud ministers hastened to reject the plan, as early as yesterday, saying that a partial IDF withdrawal from the territories is totally out of the question.

A Likud minister said last night: "There is no question of a withdrawal under any conditions whatsoever. There will be no decision by this government on a withdrawal." Likud ministers emphasized that from what they have been told so far, Shamir has in no way digressed from the framework of the autonomy as interpreted by the Israeli side since the signing of the Camp David accords.

Nevertheless, they noted that despite Shamir's reports, they have the feeling that some of the points Shamir relayed to Shultz through Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein have been kept from them. Likud ministers last night voiced their belief that Shamir launched the "upgraded autonomy" process because he was left with no other choice, perceiving the other process on the agenda, the international conference, as a threat to Israel's existence. [passage omitted]

As noted, Shamir did not put Shultz's proposal up for discussion in the Inner Cabinet. It is believed that he abstained from doing so because of the opposition he is expected to encounter on the part of his colleagues in the Likud to Shultz's proposals.

And what is the Alignment saying about Shultz's plan? Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres studied its specifics and after analyzing its significance he reiterated to his colleagues in the Alignment that the plan would be unacceptable to both Husayn and Mubarak. He went on to say that the plan is extremely damaging because it would drive Jordan away from the negotiating table.

Peres added that the negotiations can only be promoted through an international conference. All the Alignment ministers, along with Peres, are unanimous in their belief that the autonomy plan may have been suitable 10 years ago, but it is now passe. [passage omitted]

Reagan Mideast Policy Seen Not Leading to Peace

TA271655 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 27 Jan 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Reagan Administration Will Not Achieve Peace"]

[Text] The government of U.S. President Ronald Reagan is "willing" to work in search of peace in the Middle East. Why? The answer: With the aim of giving the Palestinians "reasons for hope." All this was "affirmed" by Reagan the day before yesterday in a speech to the U.S. Congress.

Reagan, however, who is trying to seem "eager" to instill "reasons for hope" in the hearts of Palestinians, was incapable of proclaiming any new U.S. initiative alluding to the slightest desire by his administration to work in search of peace in this region.

In any case, U.S. policy, based on disavowing peoples' hopes and aspirations, has proved that it cannot be characterized by sincerity when the matter affects legitimate Palestinian rights in particular and Arab causes in general.

The United States, and specifically the Reagan administration, still rejects convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East and continues to reject recognizing the PLO as the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people.

What does U.S. rejection of the convocation of an international conference mean? And what does U.S. refusal to recognize the PLO mean?

Both rejections mean but one thing, namely that the Reagan administration, as many previous U.S. Administrations, wants to draw up solutions for the region's crisis the way it pleases, unconcerned with finding a solution based on firm foundations which a real, just, and durable peace could be established.

Are all the current statistics and facts in the region, particularly in the occupied territories, not enough to convince the U.S. Administration of the need to convene the aspired international conference and to recognize the PLO as the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinians?

There is one observation that we would like to press on those who still imagine that the Reagan administration will really work to seek true peace in the Middle East: The sound of U.S. "promises" will lead nowhere except to a sincerity whose weight is no more than zero.

This year of 1988 will end, then bye-bye Reagan.

Inner Cabinet Does Not Discuss U.S. Peace Moves

TA281954 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] The Inner Cabinet which convened in Jerusalem this evening did not discuss the new ideas for the promotion of peace in our region brought by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein from Washington. The Cabinet secretary returned to Israel this evening and gave the prime minister a short report about his talk with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The Inner Cabinet dealt with the operational moves for coping with the riots in the territories. Our correspondent Yoram Ronen relayed this report to us from the prime minister's office a few minutes ago.

[Begin recording] The Inner Cabinet this evening did not discuss political issues. The Inner Cabinet members also did not hear about new political ideas now being concocted in the United States, ideas which may perhaps soon result in a new U.S. plan advancing the political moves in the Middle East.

King Husayn and President Mubarak are pressing Secretary of State Shultz to consolidate such a plan soon. Shultz examined several ideas with Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, who returned to Israel this evening and gave the prime minister a short briefing. Tomorrow morning Rubinstein will again brief the prime minister on his U.S. visit.

The new U.S. ideas are still very preliminary and not yet consolidated. They are inclined toward the autonomy plan without an international conference. The U.S.ideas will mention Palestinian rights as well as the need for Israel to withdraw from the territories of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

President Mubarak today sent two separate messages to the prime minister and the vice prime minister. In the message to the prime minister, Mubarak expressed reservations about Shamir's new plan of accelerated autonomy. In the message to Foreign Minister Peres, Mubarak warmly talks about an international conference. The prime minister rushed to answer President Mubarak this evening via Ambassador Basyuni. The prime minister welcomed Mubarak's call to end the violence in the territories, and again proposed a meeting between Israeli, Egyptian, and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegations in which negotiations without preconditions can begin. [end recording]

Basyuni Conveys Messages to Shamir, Peres

TA281744 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Report by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami—live]

[Text] Since 1600 today the Inner Cabinet has been holding a political discussion about Israel's status in the wake of the events in the territories in recent weeks and about moves adopted by the defense establishment to calm moods down. It was originally planned to allocate about 4 hours to the discussion, allowing the ministers to express their opinion about the political developments.

In the meantime, the almost daily dialogue lately between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and between Mubarak and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is continuing.

Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni arrived for a second time in Jerusalem today, carrying the messages his president sent from Washington. Mubarak writes to Yitzhaq Shamir that he is wondering about Shamir's reservations on the initiative Mubarak declared on the eve of his arrival in Washington. The international conference, the Egyptian president promises, is indeed an act that is conducive to direct negotiations.

Mubarak is trying to pry an answer from the prime minister to the following question: If a discussion cannot be held on the international conference, what then can be discussed with Mr Shamir that will be acceptable to all parties concerned? Mr Shamir has already conveyed a response to the Egyptian president via Ambassador Basyuni.

From the prime minister's office Basyuni went to the foreign minister's office, where he delivered a message containing President Mubarak's gratitude for the welcome Mr Peres accorded his initiative. Mubarak promises Peres that Egypt will continue to invest efforts in the Arab world to lead to comprehensive peace in the Middle East through an international conference, which is opposed by Mr Shamir, although it is the only way for a true, direct, and constructive dialogue which will serve all regional peoples, particularly Israel.

Still on the political level, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein returned to Israel this afternoon from a 2-day visit to Washington. In Secretary of State Shultz' office he heard U.S. ideas about political moves in the region. While there, Rubinstein also expressed the prime minister's position about these moves. Rubinstein relayed what he heard in Washington to the prime minister this evening.

Shamir Rejection of Mubarak Initiative Probed

TA281717 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 28 Jan 88 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "Increasing Initiatives and Fruitful Developments"]

[Text] As soon as Egyptian President Husni Mubarak announced his initiative for peace in the region last week, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejected it, following his custom of rejecting all political initiatives based on convening an international conference to resolve the Palestinian problem. Although Israeli Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres tried, as is his custom, to make a decision neither rejecting nor accepting the initiative by sidestepping the issue through noncommital statements, Shamir's rejection apparently goes beyond the traditional Alignment-Likud "disagreement." In continuing to reject all proposed initiatives, including, naturally, Mubarak's recent plan, his attitude is like a coalition stance of the Israeli Government.

We shall not question the current political significance of this repeated Israeli stance in light of the present events. This is clearly known to all observers. We question, rather, the significance of the results the Egyptian president can achieve in conveying his initiative to London, Bonn, and Washington as long as the Israeli Government affirms its immediate rejection of it, preceding his visit to these capitals through public affirmation of its rejection expressed by numerous Likud and Alignment officials equally.

If, according to news agencies, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher declared her support or backing for this initiative 2 days ago during her meeting with the Egyptian President, and if U.S. President Ronald Reagan has been generally repeating the desire of his administration to provide "reasons for hope" for the Palestinians without mentioning any plan or initiative, the basic problem continues to be the "unwillingness" of Washington and London to seriously pressure Israel to come to terms with the proposed political initiatives and with the "reasons for hope" about which Washington is talking a great deal, while at the same time providing Israel with all "reasons for support."

How can this chronic problem be confronted? The question here once again is not over the clear and well known Israeli position, but about the daily deteriorating position of the confused Arab reality which so far has not been able, despite all the current developments and events, to achieve a common political position regarding a specific initiative that it can support and propose to the entire world with a unified Arab resolve.

Any initiative by this or that party will not acquire serious credibility except by means of a common Arab position, whether for or against, both at the present and future stage.

Mubarak Angry Over Anti-Semitic Article

TA281547 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Jan 88 p A6

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak received a sharp Israeli complaint about anti-Semitic publications in the official Egyptian press on the eve of his tour of Europe and the United States. Mubarak asked to be presented with several examples, and when one was given to him he angrily burst out: "I do not like this."

Official sources in the prime minister's office disclosed that the article in question appeared on 27 December 1987 in AL-AKHBAR. Its author, 'Abd al-Salam Da'ud, wrote: "Zionism has a written constitution which is the Talmud. It calls on the Jews to corrupt the world through sex and drugs. This includes maintaining an iron grip on the world economy and the communications media in order to enslave them."

Basyuni Allowed To Visit Palestinian Detainees

TA291149 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 29 Jan 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni this week visited Faysal al-Husayni and Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, who have been placed under administrative arrest, in the place where they are being detained. The visit seems to indicate a change in Israeli policy. Prior to this visit, Israel did not allow the Egyptian Embassy to make similar gestures toward residents of the territories, because it preferred to bolster Jordan's standing.

Our correspondent points out that the clause in Mubarak's initiative directly referring to the territories talks about an end to the Palestinian demonstrations in exchange for the eradication of Israel's iron fist policy. Indeed, it has recently been learned that Israel has suspended the deportations and is planning to make certain gestures toward the Palestinians. It is unclear whether these steps are directly related to Mubarak's initiative. [passage omitted]

Peres on Mubarak Plan, Peace Process, Elections

TA281822 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Studio interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Me'ir Kohen and Middle East affairs correspondent Shlomo Ganor on 28 January—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Kohen] Good evening, Mr Peres.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Kohen] A short time ago it was reported that in his meeting with President Mubarak, the U.S. secretary of state proposed to go for an accelerated autonomy based on the assumption that the notion of an international conference is infeasible. What is your reaction to this U.S. position?

[Peres] First of all, I am curious to know with whom this autonomy would be implemented. After all, a partner is needed to implement autonomy. We tried to negotiate with the Egyptians, but that yielded no results. Jordan says that it will not come to the negotiating table without a preceding international conference. So with whom would these negotiations be held? I am very surprised, therefore, that such a proposal has been made.

[Ganor] Are you surprised by the very fact of the new U.S. move?

[Peres] First of all, I do not know whether there is a new U.S. move.

[Ganor] A new U.S. position.

[Peres] I am not sure there is one. I think the Americans should check before they make a proposal. Negotiations can be conducted with one of two sides, either with Jordan or the PLO. I hardly see any people in the territories at present who agree to negotiations without one of these two bodies. I do not believe that the Likud wants to negotiate with the PLO, and those who want to hold direct negotiations with Jordan must agree to an international conference.

[Kohen] It has been mentioned that Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein conveyed the prime minister's new ideas on autonomy to the U.S. secretary of state. Are you familiar with these new proposals ?

[Peres] No, I am not familiar with them and I doubt they were proposed.

[Kohen] In other words, there is no chance that these proposals would be accepted by both sides [of the government].

[Peres] I do not see any new proposals. I simply know nothing about it, and I have good reason to believe that there has been nothing of the sort.

[Kohen] Does this mean that a freeze in the political process should be expected?

[Peres] Look, my position is clear and has not changed. Negotiations should be held with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. To be quite honest, I can say that it would probably be easier to start negotiations with the PLO but impossible to make progress, whereas with Jordan it would probably be more difficult to start negotiations but then easier to make progress. My opinion, that the only option for conducting real and genuine negotiations is with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, remains unchanged.

In my view, no other options exist other than in someone's fantasy. I also think that more and more people today are coming to the conclusion that the Palestinian problem cannot be solved other than through negotiations. Neither our army nor the PLO's terror will lead to any solution. The only way to attain a solution is through negotiations.

[Ganor] The reports coming from Washington actually talk about cancelling the international conference idea or removing it from the agenda.

[Peres] I do not know. I do not see Washington coming up with other ideas. Washington may believe in doing nothing. I am not so knowledgeable as to say that it has struck the notion of an international conference off the agenda. What should be done? Well, I am open-minded and I am not the one who conceived the notion of an international conference. I only know that without it there can be no negotiations with Jordan. The PLO thinks likewise, although I have reason to believe that the PLO would accept negotiations leading toward an international conference. I would like to know: What are the alternatives?

[Kohen] Egypt has made it plain that it would like to assume a key role in the peace process. According to reports, one of its proposals was to convene a preparatory conference in Cairo with the participation of the pertinent parties. Did you know about these proposals in advance?

[Peres] Look, I read President Mubarak's initiative and there is no mention there of what you have just said. To a large extent, a preparatory conference depends on the Jordanians, and as far as I know Jordan has not yet given its agreement to one. Were all the sides to agree I would not object to it. I welcomed President Mubarak's initiative and its spirit as evident in the call for an end to the acts of violence—the issue of the settlements is not that urgent because settlements are not being established at the moment in any case—and for an international initiative that would arrive at direct negotiations, and so forth. I agree to all these, but there are other things in his initiative with which I disagree.

[Kohen] Mr foreign minister, if accelerated autonomy and an international conference are out of the question, then what is possible? You talk about negotiations. What kind of negotiations do you have in mind?

[Peres] I did not reject an international conference. I am talking about an international conference of a restricted nature; a conference that would have no authority to coerce a solution as well as a conference whose decisions could not be forced on us. I do not agree to the Security Council forcing a conference on us. I would firmly object to such a move. All sides, including Israel, must agree to the framework and nature of the conference, and I do not intend to give in on this point. I only know that Jordan, Egypt, Israel, most of the European countries, and the United States are at present prepared to go to an international opening, an opening which would not force a solution or anything whatsoever on us.

[Kohen] Meanwhile, however, the Soviet Union has also not changed its position regarding an international conference. It continues to demand a conference which would enforce solutions, and it has not restored relations with Israel. We have heard nothing new on the Jewish issue, either. So what is new now about an international conference?

[Peres] First of all, I think we must explain to the Soviet Union that none of us will agree to having it force its will on us. Soviet utterances are diverse. They say different things at different times. On several occasions Gorbachev has said that the Soviet Union does not have a coercive conference in mind. On the other hand, they talk about an authoritative conference. I do not know what that means. Does the Soviet Union think that Israel will agree to having it impose its will on us? Does it think that even Jordan will agree to have the Soviets or the Americans negotiate for them?

As far as bilateral relations are concerned, we have time and again reiterated to the Soviets that relations must be established. One cannot say that nothing has changed on the issue of Soviet Jewry and international relations. It is far from what we would like, but changes have occurred. Even on the question of the international conference there are at least two Soviet versions, not just one. One of them I reject, but the second I am prepared to examine.

[Ganor] You are actually saying that a freeze has been imposed on the entire peace process.

[Peres] Look, the peace process is one of overcoming obstacles rather than one of capitulation to obstacles. I certainly see numerous obstacles on the way. We have overcome many hurdles, whereas others remain to be overcome.

[Ganor] Do you expect to overcome all these obstacles in the 8 months remaining until elections are held in Israel and the United States?

[Peres] I did not think the creation of the world or even the peace process would stop in 8 months. Of course, this is a process going beyond the next 8 months. The question is whether anything can be started during this period, and I think action should be taken based on an optimistic rather than on a despairing and apathetic approach. Although I have no certainty whatsoever that such a conference will convene, I have no certainty to the contrary.

[Ganor] Who holds the key to budging the process which, as you noted, is plagued with obstacles?

[Peres] At present the key is held, first and foremost, by the Soviet Union, which has to change its position on two or three subjects: on the question of relations with Israel, and its position regarding the conference. I held quite a lengthy conversation on this point with Shevardnadze. You know, a Soviet ambassador recently told an Israeli ambassador that Israel conducts itself as if it were a country of 300 million people and not one of 4 or 4.5 million citizens. The Israeli ambassador replied that where pettiness is concerned the Soviet Union conducts itself as if it were a country of 4 million people and not one of 300 million inhabitants. I told Mr Shevardnadze that diplomatic relations are neither an ultimatum nor a price, but merely a channel for the clarification of issues.

The Soviets have now agreed to have an Israeli delegation go to Moscow. They are taking their time, and I would not like to rush to any conclusions or attribute any significance to this move beyond what it deserves. There is no doubt that an approach must be made to the Soviet Union, and several European statesmen have already started doing that. Andreotti, for one, says as much almost every other day. Genscher also does, and the Americans should also follow suit.

I think the second point is to agree on a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and the third point should be decided in Israel. The decision may be made either before or after the elections.

[Kohen] The U.S. secretary of state conferred with two representatives of the territories last night, Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah. What is your reaction to the meeting and its timing, in view of President Mubarak's visit?

[Peres] First of all, I am pleased that Mr Shamir allowed Hanna Sinyurah to travel. This is also an achievement.

[Kohen] The defense minister described him as a PLO man.

[Peres] Look, such descriptions are a matter of formality. If a man advocates the PLO's positions, we do not censor his opinions. The problem is one of organizational affiliation and of involvement in terrorist activities. Under no circumstances whatsoever do we disqualify Palestinians or Arabs because they hold these or other opinions. We want people to represent genuine opinions. After all, when nations negotiate with each other there is no question of cheating or petty matters. They must be serious.

Speaking of seriousness, as a Jew I would like to say that I do not want to rule over Arabs or Palestinians. I do not have any such intentions. On the contrary, I want to maintain goodneighborly relations with them. I also do not aspire to have Israel become an island of progress, prosperity, and freedom in an ocean of poverty, hatred, and war. Why would I want that? We must live together.

[Kohen] Mr Peres, you did not answer my question. What was the purpose of the meeting?

[Peres] I suppose Mr Shultz wanted to see whether there was another Palestinian partner. Based on what these two men said upon emerging from the meeting with Shultz, they practically gave him the PLO's address book. There is nothing new here. They did not tell him—and I am saying this based only on what I read in the newspapers—that there is a third element here. In other words, that in addition to Jordan and the PLO, there is a group in the territories that is prepared to sit at the table and hold discussions. I wish there were such a group. We would sit with them.

[Ganor] In view of what you have just said, that the two produced their PLO visiting cards, does the meeting not represent a digression from the avowed U.S. position of not entering into a dialogue with PLO men?

[Peres] Formally, they are not PLO men, and these were not negotiations with the PLO. Also, they were not invited for the Americans to hear the PLO's positions, but to see, as I said, whether there is a third and independent opinion in the territories.

[Kohen] Mr Peres, you welcomed President Mubarak's proposal to stop the violence in the territories, and so did the prime minister. In practice, does this proposal not signify some kind of agreement between Israel and the PLO similar to the 1981 agreement?

[Peres] I would not call it an agreement because it is not formal. What is more, an agreement not to murder people is fundamental. What is new about that?

[Kohen] But an agreement calls for another side.

[Peres] Of course it calls for another side, as a matter of fact it calls for all the parties. The PLO is also made up of various factions. In my opinion, one condition for conducting negotiations under reasonable terms is to cease all forms of violence.

[Ganor] Another point mentioned in President Mubarak's initiative is a call on international bodies to take it upon themselves to separate the IDF forces from the civilian population. Does this actually detract from Israel's status as the current ruler over the territories?

[Peres] For example, I disagree with President Mubarak on this point. I think that when the Israeli-Arab conflict is over there will be no foreign forces separating us, but we will live side by side as neighbors. Either of the two: If there is a conflict, such forces are worthless; if there is no conflict, such forces are unnecessary. What do we need them for?

[Kohen] Sir, turning to relations within the government: The differences of opinion between yourself and the prime minister reached a decisive stage this week. The prime minister accused you of curbing peace efforts....

[Peres, interrupting] How did I do that?

[Kohen] ...whereas you described his policy as one of nyets. Is this a passing argument or does it attest to some kind of political development?

[Peres] I would like to say that the idea that I have been curbing the peace process is very original, because it is totally unfounded. The fact is that when I was prime minister for 2 or 2 and 1/2 years, the international community's attitude toward our efforts in all spheres was different. I really believe that Israel should not adopt a policy of saying nyet all the time, because matters must be settled. We cannot pass the danger of a conflagration on to the next generation. Our generation must try and put an end to it. Besides, the present situation does not constitute a status quo. On the contrary, there is a geographic status quo coupled with demographic dynamics.

Look at the Gaza Strip: 20 years ago there were 300,000 inhabitants there, whereas today there are 650,000. True, the Gaza Strip has not changed, but its inhabitants are not what they once were. We keep talking about the evacuation of territories and about a geographic compromise as if this were a geographic problem. This is not a geographic problem or one of territory. The problem is one of people, national feelings, human respect, and so forth—these are the true problems.

[Kohen] But the differences have spilled over into partisan attacks between yourself and the prime minister....

[Peres, interrupting] What do you mean by attacks? We have fundamental differences of opinion. These are not attacks. We started out having differences and now we are having them again. I agreed to an international conference based on: a) a previous Cabinet resolution which has never been cancelled; b) I presented this matter to the Knesset four times and the Knesset approved it each time. The Likud members also voted in favor of it.

[Kohen] Sir, will the Alignment reach any personal conclusions in view of the situation?

[Peres] I do not understand. Why should the Likud not be the one to reach personal conclusions? How is the Likud better than the Alignment? Is this the Likud's government? This is a government of two equals.

[Ganor] If the government is not abandoned, then at least have the elections brought forward.

[Peres] Were it possible to bring the elections forward I would support such a move, but you have to look at the situation. Early elections were proposed by the Tehiya, but they played a trick on us once already. It proposed to bring elections forward. When we agreed they changed their minds in exchange for a promise about several settlements, but nothing came out of it. There is no use in going through the same exercise a second time. The only way to bring elections forward is if the two parties agree on such a move and its timing. Otherwise, even if such a decision passes its first reading in the Knesset, the Constitution, law, and Justice Committee can drag it out endlessly. What would be result, that we would have made fools of ourselves?

[Ganor] Does this mean, Mr Peres, that we, the citizens of the state, are destined to witness interpartisan fighting as well as a deadlock for the next 8 months?

[Peres] It is incumbent on us to decide where we want to go. This is a democratic country. We have to decide whether we go toward peace, peace negotiations, or toward a continuation of the status quo, which will result in the opposite. What does fighting mean? You should understand that we are not fighting over positions or control. We are fighting over a path. This is a first-rate historic and ideological argument.

[Kohen] This matter will be decided in the ballot boxes in another 8 months.

[Peres] This matter will be decided in the polling booths indeed, but the public is already hearing the argument today. This is a historic argument, possibly the most important decision we make. Let me tell you: This argument is being decided in a very strange manner. Take the Arab vote, for instance. If the Arabs again give their votes to the communists, for example, or to the Progressive List for Peace, they will be out of the picture. Such votes do not participate in decisionmaking, and this time it is the most important decision since 1948.

All other arguments are dwarfed and pale in comparison with the need to make this great decision: Will there or will there not be peace? Will the two Jewish and Arab peoples be able to coexist as good neighbors, or as cruel wolves always? Inside Israel, as far as the Jewish and Arab citizens are concerned, will there or will there not be equality? This will be decided in the polling booths, no doubt. Still, the argument is beginning now. This is not a minor argument, nor fighting for the sake of fighting. We are talking here of a historic decision.

[Kohen] In other words, the election campaign will take place during the next 8 months.

[Peres] The election campaign began once we reached a political deadlock and became unable to decide matters in the Inner Cabinet, which is made up of an equal number of Alignment and Likud members. On all other issues we somehow managed to muster a majority: on settlements, on Tabah, on Lebanon, and on the economic issue. On this issue a tie developed, and perhaps it will be only the people who will be able to decide how we emerge from this tie.

[Kohen] Let us move over to incidents in the territories. Now, almost 2 months since the beginning of the incidents, do you believe we are moving toward a calm?

[Peres] Look, nobody knew in advance that these incidents would break out. How then can I tell whether incidents will resume? I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet. I believe that these incidents were not imported from outside. They were created internally. I am even inclined to think that some of those who participated in them are not even aware of the argument that the conflicts were imported.

I have no doubt that we should always seek a solution, be it prior to the outbreak of the incidents, or while they are taking place. Just as it was not the incidents that motivated me to seek a solution, so will they not stop me from seeking one. What I can say, not prophesy, is that we should proceed with the very clear conclusion that we should extricate ourselves from this situation that all the people are in.

Look, I do not think that the Arabs are too happy about this situation either. I do not think they are too happy about the closure of shops, the throwing of stones, the imposing of curfews, the beatings. Who can be happy about this? Is this a way to lead one's life? Therefore, we definitely need to sit around the negotiating table and look for a solution.

[Ganor] Is today's policy of the club proving itself?

[Peres] There is no policy of the club. This is a contradiction in terms. The IDF has found itself in a situation it had not sought. It will be glad to emerge from it as soon as possible. The IDF, like myself, is convinced that the solution lies neither in the hands of the army nor in the club. The solution lies with politicians and around the negotiating table.

[Kohen] Mr Peres, the incidents in the territories have, in fact, also led to the elimination of the traditional, pro-Jordanian leadership. What kind of leadership do you expect to grow in the wake of these incidents?

[Peres] This issue too is not all that clear, and I would not jump to conclusions too quickly. Look, it is possible that many people in the territories prefer the PLO to Jordan. Still, from my experience, when many people in the territories consider what is preferable, a Jordan which can bring a solution or a PLO which cannot, it is very possible that Jordan with a solution is much more preferrable to the PLO without one. This is indeed a problem.

Even as we speak I am sure that a great many Arab merchants, workers, and mothers are not happy about the situation that has emerged. Do they want it to last in this manner? Do they possibly want such internal pressures to continue? No way. Also, it seems that it is possible to hold a dialogue with Jordan, while it is impossible to do so with the PLO. The proof is simple: The PLO conducted negotiations with Jordan for a whole year, and at the very last moment regretted it and went its own way again. Now...

[Ganor, interrupting] Still, talks of the joint Jordanian-PLO committee are currently being held in Amman.

[Peres] We cannot prevent this. If they reach an agreement, they reach an agreement.

[Kohen] It is against this background of the incidents in the territories that Knesset Member 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah withdrew from the Alignment this week. Furthermore, he leveled personal accusations at you too in connection with his resignation. What is your attitude toward this?

[Peres] I think that it was not correct for him to withdraw. He joined a party that said it would not hold negotiations with the PLO, and he wanted to force the party to hold such negotiations. Did we tell him anything wrong? Did he not know what kind of party he was joining? Our position is that whoever wants to conduct negotiations with the PLO will at once lose both Jordan and the Palestinians. What right does 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah have to give us orders? Did we conceal anything from him?

Now when I was prime minister, we did a lot of things. We let area No 9 go [an IDF training area in the north that was handed over to local Arab residents to cultivate]. We adopted a policy of drawing up site plans in the Arab villages. Through the Markowitz report we took care of the issue of illegally built houses in the Arab sector. We acted in Bet She'an. I called the Arab heads of local councils and firmly demanded that they be given equal incomes. These matters take time, of course.

Still, did the Arabs not have an address to turn to? What is Darawshah talking about? When has there ever been such attentiveness, such responsiveness, such a treatment? The Arabs are members of the party. Darawshah cannot dictate a PLO policy to us. I also think he has no future outside the party, either. What will he do? Will he compete with the Progressive List of Peace? They are more pro-PLO than him. Will he compete with the communists? They too are more pro-PLO than him.

The demonstration in Nazareth about a week ago was organized by the PLO and the communists together. Well then, a demonstration was staged. So what? What happens the day after the demonstration? Will the demonstrators frighten anybody? We will not frighten the Arabs, nor will the Arabs frighten us. We either talk to each other as human beings or we cannot talk.

Let me tell the Arab listeners too. It is true that we should respect the Palestinians. Nevertheless, they too have to respect our security concerns. Is there indeed an Arab who believes that Israelis will agree that 100 meters from the Jerusalem Knesset—I think we should speak clearly here—there will be a Palestinian army with Soviet arms, with Soviet experts?

After all, what are we talking about? We are seeking a solution which will restore the Arabs their honor, their right of speech, their right to the land they cultivate. We do not want to oppress anybody, but after five wars let them not threaten us either.

There is a contradiction in the situation here, and whoever runs away from the facts is making life easy for himself. Well then, Darawshah was applauded by those PLO people, those communists, who were in Nazareth. So what? Is he working on the problem? Let me speak sincerely. I want to respect the rights of the Palestinian people on the one hand, but I have to take care of Israel's security needs, and the Palestinians have to understand this. Whoever runs away from either of these is running into an imaginary and not serious world.

[Ganor] In light of the case of Knesset Member Darawshah, do you not have second thoughts regarding the inclusion of Arab candidates in the Labor Party list for the upcoming elections?

[Peres] Look, one went, one left, but I will not go against the Arabs as a result. As a rule, I do not generalize. If a single Arab misbehaves this does not mean that all Arabs are bad. This also applies to Jews who misbehave. There were Jews too who withdrew from the Labor Party. Should I then exclude Jews from the list?

[Ganor] Will there perhaps be room for an independent Arab list linked to the Labor Party?

[Peres] There is no room for a separate Arab list. One either goes with the PLO, as the Progressive List for Peace and the communists do—and in my opinion, they will get nowhere, since they totally ignore Israel's real and not imaginary security needs. I am not talking here about a historic link or other things which cannot be underestimated either.

What is the alternative then? The alternative is to try to find a solution, an honorable Jordanian-Palestinian one with elements of demilitarization, self-expression, and self-administration. There is a variety of possibilities here. Still, I do not want to force the Arabs, and the Arabs too should understand that they cannot force us. We must find the middle of the road. The Progressive List for Peace and the communists simply walk hand in hand with the PLO regardless. What then? Will they form another separate party that will also go with the PLO? If the PLO is out of the question, we are the true alternative for both Jews and Arabs.

[Kohen] Mr Peres, our program has reached its conclusion. I thank you for coming to our studio. I also thank my colleague, Shlomo Ganor.

Romanian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Shamir Requests Mediation

TA282220 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening gave Romanian Foreign Affairs Minister Ioan Totu a message for Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. Our correspondent reports that in the message Shamir asks the Romanian president to mediate between him and Arab leaders to reach direct negotiations with them. Our correspondent Mikha'el Doron reports on Ioan Totu's visit to Israel.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] There is a grave economic crisis in Romania today; this is one of the reasons for the arrival of Foreign Affairs Minister Ioan Totu to Israel, after 40 years of not having a senior Romanian minister visit here. Romania wants Israel to buy goods worth more than the current $30 million level, but Bucharest is in fact turning its eyes toward Washington, believing that the way to the U.S. pocket goes through Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Shamir praised President Ceausescu, who has been called a tyrannical ruler. Shamir says he speaks well of Ceausescu, though, thanks to his good treatment of the 30,000 Jews in Romania and his contribution toward peace. [passage omitted]

As may be recalled, Ceausescu convinced Al-Sadat to come to Jerusalem, and Shamir is now asking him in a message to convince other leaders in the Arab countries to enter direct negotiations with him.

As every guest to Israel, the Romanian foreign affairs minister finds himself exposed to two different political approaches. From Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres he hears about the danger inherent in the establishment of a Palestinian state with Soviet arms and about Peres' desire to have an international conference. [passage omitted]

What about the Romanian position itself? It is good neither for Peres nor Shamir: Withdrawal from the territories and an international conference with PLO participation. [end recording]

Peres, Totu Hold Talks

TA282223 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has been invited for a visit to Romania. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the invitation on behalf of President Ceausescu was conveyed to Mr Peres by Ioan Totu, his Romanian counterpart, in a second meeting the two foreign ministers held this evening. In this talk

Mr Peres made it clear to his guest that those who participate in an international conference must have full diplomatic relations with all the countries concerned.

Senior Diplomat Meets With Soviets in Europe

TA281447 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] A senior Israeli diplomat held informal talks with two Soviet diplomats in a European capital over the weekend, well-placed sources in Jerusalem said.

The diplomat, a minister at the Israeli Embassy in the city, met with the first and second secretaries at the Soviet Embassy there. The meeting took place in the country home of a local Jew who organized the talks.

Rabin on Territories Policy, Political Solution

TA291115 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (Leshabat supplement) in Hebrew 29 Jan 88 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Ben-Porat] It is known for a fact that you do not shirk responsibility. Based on this fact, a senior journalist in THE NEW YORK TIMES wrote this week that you should resign. What would you answer him?

[Rabin] I disagree with him that the policy being adopted under the present circumstances is not necessary for Israel's security and future. We are faced with a situation that is different from the one we have known in the last 20 years. This is the first time that the inhabitants of the territories are leading the Palestinian struggle, thus giving vent to their despair and frustration over the Arab countries' failure to solve their problems and terror's failure to achieve anything.

[Ben-Porat] You do not mention our failure, the failure of the government of which you are a member. Do we not have a part in their despair and frustration?

[Rabin] Many reasons are involved, but a peaceful solution on our eastern border can only be attained through political means. I have never deluded myself that an indefinite status quo can be enforced with the help of the army. That is impossible. In the absence of a political process we can only restore calm, but I do not know for how long.

This, however, will not solve the problem. Under these conditions and in the absence of a political change, we might experience a further recurrence of violence. By the same token, I believe that political concessions cannot be made under the pressure of violence.

[Ben-Porat] Will you object to a political move as long as there are demonstrations and tires are set on fire?

[Rabin] I have never said that. I have no objection whatsoever to a political move that will be made simultaneously with restoring peace. I supported a political move even before the riots.

[Ben-Porat] But you were less thrilled than, say, Shim'on Peres.

[Rabin] The problem is not one of being thrilled. I was in favor of a move. The problem was my perception of the ability of this government, in its present constellation, to promote the process—and the current government is incapable of promoting it. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Porat] What do you foresee after the calm, if and when it is restored? What is the long-term solution?

[Rabin] For 20 years I have supported the Allon plan, even when part of the Labor Party headed by the late Moshe Dayan precluded party and government decisions about a territorial compromise and objected to foreign sovereignty west of the Jordan River. Today I ask myself how much weight do the local Palestinians carry and to what extent has Jordan's status as a possible partner to negotiations been harmed.

Obviously, as time goes by the problem might worsen. I still consider Jordan a key partner, but the question of its status might become more acute. As a result of the ongoing changes, seeing that the Palestinians in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and not the PLO or other terrorist organizations are leading the struggle, I expect to see a local leadership arising and holding negotiations with us. If such leaders arise, it will be easier to solve the problem with them together with Jordan. Direct negotiations are preferable in any event, but as a second option I would agree to negotiations with the United States only. If the condition for negotiations is to have an international conference on our terms—namely, not a coercive conference, and so on—then I am in favor of it.

[Ben-Porat] Is Mubarak's plan acceptable to you?

[Rabin] It is an initiative, not a plan, and it should not be rejected. It contains some positive elements which should be accepted. We should check and see which parts of it we can accept. After all, we do not have to accept his initiative lock, stock, and barrel. For instance, I am against stationing international observers in the territories, and there are a few other things that I object to. All in all, we should not reject it but give our conditional agreement and then proceed to sit down and discuss it. [passage omitted]

Further on Incidents, Policy in Territories

IDF Releasing 100 Detainees

TA290716 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] The commander of the Southern Command has decided to release approximately 100 people who were detained during the recent disturbances in the Gaza

Strip. This has been learned by our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe. The first detainees were released yesterday and the process will be continued today.

Our correspondent reports that Major General Mordekhay decided to release these detainees following appeals by mukhtars, municipality heads, and school principals in the Gaza Strip. Maj Gen Mordekhay also promised to consider the appeals of these notables regarding issues of work permits and family unifications on the condition that the relative calm in the Gaza Strip continues.

IDF Soldiers Put on Trial

TA2817253 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, said that several soldiers who beat Arabs without reason were put on trial, and that other soldiers were removed from their units. In a briefing to foreign correspondents Maj Gen Mitzna' said that we, the Israelis, as Jews, are very sensitive to violent acts since violence runs counter to our values.

Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, the military advocate general, has instructed the military police to investigate several complaints submitted against soldiers for irregular acts and improper conduct in treating the population in the territories.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that what is involved is complaints concerning property and physical damage. What is being referred to here is the few complaints that have been filed officially, either directly by the person concerned or via an attorney. The military advocate general said that every complaint will be investigated, if submitted against a soldier who can be identified.

Roundup of 28 Jan Incidents

TA281852 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Excerpts] There were slight disturbances in the Gaza Strip this morning, mainly stone throwing incidents. In one case an IDF force dispersed rioting female students, using rubber bullets. The curfew was lifted from the Jabalyah refugee camp this morning. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

[Begin recording] Life in the Gaza Strip today proceeded without a curfew or any other restrictions, but there were several attempts to disrupt order this morning. Spikes and nails were scattered on the street in the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza to prevent vehicles transporting workers to Israel from leaving. Stones were also thrown at an Israeli tourist bus near Bayt Lahiyah. Its windows were smashed but there were no casualties. Stone roadblocks were erected at the Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza.

About 100 youths entered UNRWA's girls school in Gaza and incited the female students to disrupt order. The girls left the school and threw stones at vehicles. An IDF force dispersed the rioters, using rubber bullets. Following similar rioting yesterday at the school adjacent to Dayr al-Balah, the commander of the Southern Command instructed the closure of the school for a week.

Security forces in the Gaza Strip are mainly challenging the campaign of terror in which extremists are trying to use every possible means to stop the flow of workers into the Green Line boundaries and thus lead to a commercial strike. The two cases, yesterday and today, in which female students rioted after youths incited them, despite their awareness that the IDF reaction will be hard, indicate perhaps how strong the influence of the extremists is. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Disturbances continued in the 'Anata refugee camp in the West Bank today. Village residents gathered near the local Coca Cola warehouse and threw stones at traveling vehicles. The police dispersed them with tear gas. The commercial strike in East Jerusalem continued today, too.

Nabulus Officials Resign

TA291229 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Thousands of Muslim worshippers dispersed calmly following Friday's prayers on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yosi Rivlin reports that in the sermon following the prayer the Muslims were asked to await the results of UN official Marrack Goulding's mission.

The security forces imposed a curfew on the Tulkarm refugee camp to prevent disturbances following the Friday prayers. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

Three of the members of Nabulus' municipality have resigned from their post. The three informed the mayor about this several days ago and since then they have not appeared at the council sessions. Mayor Hafiz Tuqan did not accept their resignation. [passage omitted]

Arrests, Curfews in W. Bank

TA291354 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] The Jerusalem police have arrested six youths suspected of calling nationalist slogans and hoisting a Palestinian flag after prayers on the Temple Mount. The majority of worshippers dispersed calmly after prayers. This was reported by our correspondent Yosi Rivlin.

A curfew was imposed this afternoon on the Al-Am'ari refugee camp near Ramallah and on the Tulkarm refugee camp following riots after Friday prayers.

The security forces used tear gas to disperse an after-prayer demonstration in one of the mosques of Ramallah. During the demonstration a Molotov cocktail was thrown into the road, causing no injuries and no damage.

The curfew in the village of Si'ir near Hebron was lifted a short while ago following a 9-day blockade and curfew. The curfew in the village of Bayt 'Ur al-Tahta is continuing.

Studies in Judaea and Samaria will be resumed next Monday at the end of the semester break. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that studies in several Judaea and Samaria universities that had been closed down by the Military Government will also be resumed next week.

Restraints in Gaza To Be Eased

TA291442 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] As part of the relaxation of measures in the Gaza Strip due to begin next week, requests for family reunions will be considered, dirt barriers will be removed from the entrances to the Al-Burayj and Al-Nusayrat camps, and the main roads to the camps will be reopened. The Erez border crossing point at which the workers' entry into Israel has been halted will be widened.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the head of the Civilian Administration in the Gaza Strip met this morning with the director of UNRWA in the area. They discussed further cooperation between the two bodies.

Gaza Muslim Activists Detained

TA281250 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Jan 88 p 3

[Report by Yitzhaq Ravyihya and Tzvi Singer]

[Excerpts] The IDF is formalizing its presence in the Gaza Strip. A regional headquarters was established recently, as were several camps along the main roads, at the entrances to the refugee camps, and near the foci of disturbances.

Military sources believe that this deployment indicates that the IDF intends to keep large forces in the Gaza Strip for a long time. [passage omitted]

The security forces in the Gaza Strip are continuing to detain dozens of extremist Muslim activists belonging to various groups. Muhammad Salman Abu Jami', one of the leaders of the Salafiyun Movement (an extremist religious movement seeking to return to the roots of Islam), was interrogated in Khan Yunus yesterday. He said that recently many of the religious youths in Khan Yunus have been detained, and he himself receives warnings and is often interrogated.

Dr Mahmud Siyam, director of the Islamic University in Gaza, said that hundreds of university students had been detained, beaten, and wounded during the disturbances, and that three lecturers from the university are among the detainees. He added that at this stage there is no point to reopening the university, because most of the 5,000 students are afraid of being detained on campus. [passage omitted]

Propaganda Seized in Haifa

TA281942 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Two cassettes containing anti-Zionist propaganda material were seized this afternoon during a search in a shop owned by Arab residents in (Wadi Misnaf) in Haifa. The police arrived there to conduct a search after receiving information that Palestinian flags and cassettes containing anti-Israeli propaganda material were being sold in the shop. Our correspondent in Haifa Qobi Mandel reports that when the policemen wanted to carry out the search they were attacked by the shop owners. One policeman was injured as a result. Four suspects, including one woman—all members of the family that runs the shop—were detained.

Rioters Surveyed on Motives

TA281636 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Jan 88 p 7

[Commentary by Dan Avidan: "What Caused the Riots in the Territories?"]

[Text] A survey conducted among several dozen Gaza Strip residents who played an active role in organizing the first wave of unrest at the beginning of December 1987 and were subsequently caught, gives rise to several interesting conclusions. As most answers indicate, the cause for the outburst of riots was the terrible traffic accident that occurred at the Erez roadblock on 8 December in which four people, most of them Jabalyah refugee camp residents, were killed. Many eyewitnesses considered that accident as intentional, an act of revenge for the murder of the Israeli, Moshe Saqal, in the Gaza Strip 2 days earlier.

Information on the accident spread throughout the Gaza Strip overnight. Rumors pass quickly in a region where houses border one another due to overcrowding. The more educated among the people who were surveyed did not believe the claim that the accident was preplanned, but they explained that most of the public in the Gaza Strip did believe so, because this is an uneducated and frustrated group which usually reacts to rumors emotionally. Shortly before the fatal accident, the Israeli authorities released from detention the settler who cold-bloodedly killed a Gaza girl, Intisar al-'Atar; this move further increased the residents' fury. That very same day the first violent demonstrations erupted in the Jabalyah refugee camp which, as mentioned previously, had lost most of the individuals killed in the traffic accident near the Erez roadblock. A local resident was killed and another 16 were wounded during the demonstrations. This prompted the Gaza Strip residents to escalate the wave of demonstrations.

Who were the people in the Gaza Strip who threw stones, burned tires, and hurled Molotov cocktails? The answers indicate several characteristics of the rioters. Most of them are young, in their 20's, with little education, and are residents of refugee camps. Almost all of them worked in the past or are currently working in Israel, and most of them speak Hebrew. A minority of them were men in their 30's who did not finish high school. The percentage of students among the rioters was apparently low. The survey indicates that some of the rioters were religiously motivated, but their relative weight did not exceed that of the entire religious public in the Gaza Strip. In other words, the religious motive did not play an especially important role in starting the disturbances.

Most of those surveyed did not explain their uprising against the authorities in political terms. They did not know what the "Palestinian National Charter" is, or may have intentionally given that impression. They also demonstrated ignorance about basic political terms concerning the PLO's world outlook, for instance: the Palestinians' right to return to their homes; their right to self-determination; and so on and so forth. Most of those surveyed said they do not listen to the PLO radio based in Baghdad, due to the poor reception of the broadcasts in the Gaza Strip.

Most of those surveyed said that their main motive for rioting was hatred of the Israeli occupation and the restrictions the Israeli authorities impose on the residents of the territories. They mainly emphasized the humiliating treatment, as they see it, of the local residents by IDF soldiers stationed at roadblocks, especially the one at Erez, which is the gate to and from the Gaza Strip. Many said they feel deep frustration due to humiliating treatment by their Israeli employers. Almost every youth who was caught in action during demonstrations claimed that at least once he felt he was gravely wronged by the conduct of his Israeli employer, IDF soldiers, or other representatives of the authorities.

Another reason for the disturbances mentioned by those surveyed was the increasing despair of their hard economic and social condition. All of those surveyed pointed to the difficult living conditions prevailing in the refugee camps, the terrible crowding, the shortage of housing, and poverty as the causes for the deep frustration they developed. Their frustration has grown since they began to work in Israel where they had the opportunity to see the better living conditions of the Jewish residents, while they, due to their poor salaries, could not afford to improve their living conditions in the camps. The dead-end feeling has thus increased.

Another reason for the eruption of the riots in Gaza was a combination of social pressures and physical threats on youths to get out for demonstrations. Many of those surveyed said that they had thrown stones and burned tires only after their friends had done so. Others said they had been physically threatened to demonstrate or close shops. Another motive was the desire to prove that the residents of the Gaza Strip are no less patriotic than those of the West Bank, who usually set the tone of anti-Israeli demonstrations. A minority of those surveyed listed political reasons for the disturbances, such as the lack of chance to achieve a political settlement; disappointment with the PLO's ability to bring about a realistic solution of the conflict; a disappointment with the Arab states; and the feeling that they, the Gaza Strip residents, are between the Israeli rock and the Arab hard place, the feeling that Gaza has no serious patron that wants to regain control over it, as King Husayn, for example, wants to regain control of the West Bank.

The answers of the initiators of the demonstrations indicate that they did not act under the guidance of a general regional leading body or according to PLO guidance (matters have changed today; West Bank residents, who are more subject to PLO influence, are now setting the tone of the disturbances). According to those surveyed, an important role in guiding the riots was played by local inhabitants who had been released from Israeli jails and turned into "neighborhood heroes." This refers mainly to Palestinians who were released in 1985 in the framework of the prisoner exchange deal struck with Ahmad Jibril's organization. These people immediately turned into local leaders, organizing centers of unrest in their neighborhoods.

The survey then points out that the Gaza Strip residents' feeling of having been wronged and offended, as well as their frustration, were the main cause for the uprising, and not a political initiative originating outside the Gaza Strip.

Government 'Paralyzed', Unable To Act on Unrest

TA281407 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jan 88 p 9

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "To Cancel the Deportations"]

[Text] Now that there has been a respite in the disturbances in the territories, regardless of whether it is long or short, Israel in its capacity as ruler of the area must make up its mind about the way to treat the local Arab population. In the wake of the riots, and even later in the future, it is highly doubtful that this government will be able to agree on a political solution or even on the question of how to deal with the Palestinian leadership in the territories. This government is paralyzed as far as these matters are concerned, and is incapable of making any decisions. It is a prime example of the talk-and-do-nothing syndrome. The government's abstention from engaging in serious discussions about sensitive security issues has become a negative and easily mocked model.

This leaves us with the question of the Israeli authorities' reaction in the immediate future. In this respect too, there are numerous signs pointing to the absence of full internal coordination, even when it comes to punitive measures. One gets the impression that the foreign minister has on more than one occasion been left out of the picture within the prime minister's forum, even by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, his party colleague. An example of this lack of coordination is Hanna Sinyurah's arrest and the subsequent ban on his departure from Israel, which was canceled 24 hours later.

In its capacity as ruler, Israel for better or for worse is responsible for the population in the territories; this is also our obligation under international law. In its capacity as ruler, Israel signals to the Arab population how they should behave and what to expect in the event of good or bad behavior. The immediate goal is to calm the population and illustrate to them that they stand to lose if they heed those who violate the law. True, they stand to gain very little, if at all. As far as the inhabitants of the refugee camps are concerned, their main gain lies in their ability to make a living, even if it is a meager one. Israel could gain something from these gestures, if it is perceived both as a ruler prepared to adopt a firm hand when necessary, and as a generous ruler. This is what must be done if we want to refrain from stoking the fire that the organizers of the rioters want to maintain.

Israel's signals can take the form of several immediate gestures. For instance, to release those boys under 16 years of age involved in the riots in the territories and who are being kept under arrest in crowded prisons. If the respite continues for a few days longer, such a gesture would prove to the families of these boys—on the condition that they were not charged with particularly serious crimes—that Israel is prepared to be generous. Another gesture concerns prospective deportees. Five of the nine men who were issued deportation orders in the wake of the riots are currently in jail, as well as a detainee from the Gaza Strip who was issued a deportation order prior to the riots and is said to have a particularly nasty record. But I am talking only about the former. Four of them have already been deported in spite of international pleas and the UN Security Council resolution; a Foreign Ministry proposal to postpone the deportation of the four until after the visit of UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding was also rejected.

Security officials agree that the deportation of the four would have exacerbated the riots. I am not saying that they are saints; on the contrary, they probably are certified villains. What I am saying, however, is that from the security point of view, the State of Israel can afford to make such a gesture toward the Palestinian population and international world opinion. This gesture would not be done out of weakness but would be a positive signal. What is more, this would be a conditional move which could be revoked if necessary.

Another gesture concerns the thousands of people from the territories who come to work in Israel. If we want to restore normal life as much and as soon as possible, we should see to it that Israeli employers do not take advantage of the situation created in the wake of the riots. They must be persuaded to take back their former workers and not take advantage of the situation in order to not payback their debts or withhold wages. We have already heard of such incidents, here and there.

Despite the fact that in his public appearances the defense minister seemed to rejoice in the policy of beatings, immediate action should be taken to eliminate collective punishment. When a curfew is clamped down and people are banned from leaving for work, or when an economic siege is imposed, it is obvious that many individuals are punished through no fault of their own. Sometimes, though, there is no other alternative. When demonstrators who throw stones or firebombs are beaten up, they know they had it coming. But when people are followed into their homes after a demonstration and beaten up, when innocent people, including women and senior citizens, have their arms and legs broken—this is an unforgivable crime. This is sheer cruelty which points to the brutalization of Israeli society. What is more important, this is a serious mistake from the security perspective, because it increases the cycle of hostility and the desire for revenge.

Those who looked for a common denominator among those who stabbed or attempted to stab Israelis found that many of them or members of their families were at some point seriously humiliated by Israelis. This probably was not the only reason that drove them to commit or attempt to commit murder, but there is no doubt that many relatives of the 200 men whose limbs were broken will develop the urge to avenge, stab, and hurt.

Experts who questioned Vietcong found that the desire to retaliate for the humiliations they suffered played a significant part in their reasons for joining the organization. Therefore, we should do everything possible to do away with brutal collective punishment at once. I am not saying that these moves will solve the serious situation or that they should come instead of a political solution and negotiations, but if our leaders retain any trace of wisdom in their minds they must realize that this is our duty in our capacity as rulers of the area.

'Breaking Arms, Spirits' No Solution to Unrest

TA260813 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
24 Jan 88 p 5

[Editorial: "Killings and Beatings Are Not Answer"]

[Text] The stone-throwing and the strikes will not lead anywhere, Israeli officials told the Palestinian people. If there is to be progress on the Palestinian issue, then stop all signs of protests, they demanded.

We would like to believe these officials. But from past experience, we have learned better. The West Bank and Gaza Strip were relatively quiet for 20 years, yet Israel did not seem interested in reaching a settlement. It kept on turning down all opportunities for peace, believing that as a dominant power and winner of many previous wars, it did not have to make concessions.

Israel's lack of seriousness in what it says is reflected in the way it is handling the protests. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin ordered his men to beat Palestinian youths and elders on every part of their bodies, inflicting heavy bodily damage, including broken arms and legs. If these people won't stop throwing stones on their own, Rabin warned, then the Israeli army will break their arms and legs and thus they will be made unable to throw rocks.

So Rabin is determined to quell the protests by all means at his disposal regardless of the severity of the measures. Then he comes and appeals for quiet and order so that the peace process can be started. How can Rabin expect these humiliated and severely beaten people to forgive him and the army and sit and talk with Israel about peace and coexistence?

The protests started this violence because of the mistreatment of the Palestinian population by the Israeli occupiers. If the Palestinians had sensed earlier that Israel was serious about reaching a settlement, then there would naturally have been progress, not deterioration of the situation.

Israel needs to rethink its policy in the occupied areas and with regard to the Palestinian question in general. Force, breaking arms spirits, coercion and threats, will not lead anywhere. This is what Israel needs to understand and work on; not burying its head in the sand, assuming everything will return to normal once several arms and legs are broken.

IDF 'Irregularities' To Be Investigated

TA281503 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jan 88 pp 1, 3

[Report by Joel Greenberg, Bradley Burston, and Andy Court]

[Text] The IDF judge advocate-general, Amnon Strassnoff, yesterday ordered an investigation into alleged excesses by troops told to beat rioters in the territories.

"Following the recent incidents in which troops went beyond the use of reasonable force...and committed blatant irregularities, I have ordered military police investigations," Strassnoff said in an address at Tel Aviv University.

The Hebrew daily HADASHOT yesterday published a monologue by a soldier in the Gaza Strip, in which he described how soldiers in his unit had, under orders, taken young men out of their homes during a curfew, forced them to stand with their faces to a wall, and clubbed them. He said men slow to open their homes had been handcuffed, blindfolded, and taken to an assembly point, and beaten and kicked on the way though they offered no resistance.

He was quoted as saying that the number of people who did not want to take part in the beatings increased with time, though no one disobeyed direct orders. At the assembly point, he said, soldiers severely beat and clubbed kneeling detainees. The beatings caused arguments and a fight between soldiers, he added.

Dozens of Palestinians beaten over the past week have charged that they were taken from their homes and beaten, although they had not taken part in riots.

Defence Minister Rabin has said that soldiers are under orders to use force only against rioters and persons resisting arrest, but conceded that there have been "irregularities." Three lieutenant-colonels have been appointed to command zones of the West Bank, in an attempt to tighten control over troops in the area, military sources said.

In the West Bank yesterday, troops landed from helicopters yesterday afternoon to capture rioters in Ramallah, during one of a number of disturbances in the town.

The troops lept from the copter, chased a number of youths who had been identified as taking part in the disturbance, and arrested them.

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 28 January reports on page 4 that this is "a new system introduced by the IDF in recent days to disperse demonstrations. An IDF force is immediately flown in a helicopter as soon as a report of a demonstration is received. The soldiers are dropped near the site and storm the demonstrators."]

Security sources staged an early morning sweep in the village of Si'ir near Hebron, after more than a week of intermittent disturbances.

Prior to the curfew, Si'ir had been closed off for six days, with residents forbidden to leave the village, though they could move freely inside it. The village remains under curfew.

Suspected riot leaders have also been arrested in recent days in Al-Ram village, north of Jerusalem.

Bayt 'Ur al-Tahta remains under a curfew clamped after disturbances Friday. A curfew imposed on the Al-Jalazun camp Tuesday was lifted.

Disturbances were also reported yesterday at the Al-Am'ari and Qalandiyah refugee camps, where Palestinian sources said troops beat up local residents.

Troops have continued the policy of declaring areas of tension closed to journalists. Al-Ram has been closed to journalists since the beginning of the week, and the Al-Jalazun camp was declared off limits after a clash Tuesday between rioters and troops.

Soldiers used crowbars to force open shops yesterday in Ramallah, and similar scenes were reported in Janin and Tulkarm. In Al-Ram, shop-keepers opened stores after warnings were blared by loudspeaker.

Bradley Burston adds from Gaza:

Palestinian schoolgirls attempted to block a major southern Gaza thoroughfare yesterday, but were dispersed by baton-wielding troops.

The incident occurred near the Al-Sukayma girls' school at Dayr al-Balah. Last November, a pupil at another Dayr al-Balah girls' school was shot dead, allegedly by Jewish settlers, after pupils set up roadblocks and stoned motorists on a highway adjacent to the school.

Despite a continuing curfew at the Jabalyah refugee camp, most Gaza workers were able to travel to jobs in Israel yesterday. Most schools reported 70-80 per cent attendance, a marked increase from last week.

But commercial strikes continued in most urban areas, with troops and local strike activists alternately forcing merchants to open and close their shops.

Andy Court adds:

A 13-year-old Arab was arrested yesterday for allegedly throwing stones on the Hebrew University campus on Mt. Scopus. The teenager was part of a group that entered the university grounds and began throwing stones in the campus plaza, the Jerusalem police said. A security guard seized one of them, but the others escaped.

On the highway near 'Anata, dozens of Arab youths threw stones towards the road, police said. They fled when the police arrived, but returned a few hours later and threw stones again. Police this time used tear gas to disperse them. The commercial strike in East Jerusalem continued yesterday.

Hebrew Quarterly on Palestinian Issues Published

TA251409 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
25 Jan 88 p 4

[Report by Y. Galili]

[Text] A Hebrew-language quarterly on Palestinian issues has been published. The name of the quarterly is DIALOGUE. Its goal is to present a "true picture, as comprehensive as possible, of the Palestinian people, their economic and political situation, their institutions, and the reality of their day-to-day living." This was announced yesterday by the weekly's editorial staff at a news conference in Tel Aviv.

The speakers, Professor Blass, from Haifa University; Knesset Member [MK] Muhammad Watad; Latif Dori, chairman of the quarterly; and Hagay Forschner, secretary of the editorial staff; said this is the first time since the establishment of the state that an academic-level Hebrew-language quarterly devoted to the Palestinian problem has been issued. It is hoped that the quarterly will present to the Israeli public reports on events "in the mainstream PLO, which is the central and supreme spokesman for the Palestinian people."

"The quarterly is being financed by donations from Jews and Arabs residing in Europe and the United States, who wish to promote the dialogue between the two nations toward the attainment of peace," MK Watad said.

Gen Lahd Reviews SLA Activity, Future Plans

TA271313 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
27 Jan 88 p 17

[Interview with General Antoine Lahd, South Lebanese Army (SLA) Commander by Shmu'el Tal; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Tal] Are you satisfied with the functioning of the SLA?

[Lahd] The SLA cannot hermetically close off the entire security zone, but our forces routinely do their best to prevent infiltration by hostile elements. We are doing a good job. I am pleased with the positions and with the roads constructed by the IDF's Northern Command in this area. We have made enormous progress in the field of fortifications, which has vastly improved the soldiers' behavior and their ability to defend positions. The number of attacks on our positions has decreased since the fortifications were constructed. We have also had a few successful operations.

[Tal] How dependent is the SLA on the IDF?

[Lahd] We have to face the Syrian Army, Hizballah, and the Shi'ites. In the last 3 years our former militia force, assisted by the IDF, became an organized army. We will require this assistance in the future, too. The task of our army has not been accomplished yet. We are intensifying the training program and reinforcing the infrastructure of our positions. We have made improvements, but there is still room for further improvement.

[Tal] In what fields?

[Lahd] My ambition is to strengthen the SLA and to increase its manpower and performance so that it can be deployed in the security zone, freeing the IDF from the necessity of deploying in Lebanon. Another ambition of mine is to attain greater influence over all of Lebanon, to affect events there. The role of the SLA is not restricted to military duties, it also lies in providing a bridge between Israel and Lebanon and maintaining that link. I would like to expand the security zone in the eastern sector and to reach the Al-Awwali River in the Hasbayya area, which would enable us to take charge of the eastern gateway to Lebanon. There is no need to widen the security zone in the western sector, because such a step would be liable to put hostile villages inside the zone. The greatest danger we are facing today is the possibility that the Shi'ite population that supports Amal will assist hostile Palestinian operations. This danger is particularly tangible in the western sector of the security zone, which is merely 5 km wide.

Next 3 Years IDF Shortfall Seen at $600 Million

TA271325 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
27 Jan 88 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] According to defense establishment estimates, the IDF lacks $600 million to meet its needs in the coming 3 years. The estimates were made after the cancellation of the Lavi, and are based on planned procurement needs by the army.

The defense establishment has not yet worked out possible ways of making up for the missing funds in the coming years. The IDF has not yet outlined its plan for the coming 5 years.

It seems that the estimated $600 million shortfall is one of the reasons for the delay in a decision on the future of a new project for the navy. According to defense estimates, the project would cost $1.66 billion, which would be allocated through 1997. According to the same estimates, over the next 5 years some $920 million out of the defense budget would have to be allocated to the naval project.

The General Staff will have to prioritize its procurement plans on the assumption that some of the planned projects will have to be dropped due to a lack of funds.

First priority will most likely be given to the purchase of fighter planes for the air force. As has already been published, the air force will buy some 75 F-16's at a cost of some $2 billion. It will probably also purchase a considerable number of F-15's.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin flew in two different types of helicopters during his recent visit to the United States.

A decision on prioritization and how to divide existing resources rests ultimately with the defense minister.

King Husayn on Dialogue With PLO, 'Uprising'

JN281855 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has announced that there is now a ready opportunity to resume dialogue with the PLO. His majesty expressed hope that the PLO leadership now clearly realizes that if it wants to resume this dialogue, we would welcome its resumption from the point where we left off. We will not start from the beginning.

In an interview with FRG radio and television, his majesty said that Jordan would like the PLO to be invited to the proposed international conference for peace in the Middle East. His majesty asserted that if the PLO goes to this gathering, it must accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, renounce violence, and declare its readiness to discuss every aspect of the Palestinian problem.

As for the American position on the Middle East peace process, his majesty noted: Regrettably, the United States is taking a hesitant stand toward the efforts being made for peace. This is a product of the influence which Israeli extremists have on U.S. decisionmakers. The U.S. Administration should deal with the problem and shake off the pressures it has come under recently. There is now a need to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East under the auspices of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to find a settlement for the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Turning to the uprising in the occupied Arab territories, His Majesty King Husayn explained that the uprising was a spontaneous reaction to a harsh occupation that has lasted 20 years and has denied the Palestinian people their basic human rights. I believe even the Israelis recognize that is the case.

His majesty expressed fear that Israel's eagerness in applying the iron-fist policy will produce a further deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories. His Majesty King Husayn affirmed that the Arab states support the uprising in the occupied territories, and it seems that this time, the citizens in the occupied territories themselves have assumed the task of resisting occupation. That is something new. If we let things get worse, I fear they will quickly reach the point where we will lose hope of achieving a just and permanent peace. If we hit that point, it will be a disaster for everyone in the region. By that I mean Israel, the neighboring Arab states, and the Palestinians. The disaster might engulf the entire world as well.

Talks With Palestinians Resume 28 Jan

JN281932 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Talks resumed at the Prime Ministry this evening between representatives of Jordan, led by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, and those of the Palestinian side, led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas.

The talks were attended for Jordan by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin, Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah, and Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani.

The Palestinians were represented by 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, and 'Abdallah al-Hurani, members of the PLO Executive Committee, and Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to the PLO chief, who arrived in Amman today.

Al-Hurani Comments

JN290622 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0518 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Official talks between the Jordanian Government and the PLO continued in Amman yesterday. The Jordanian representatives at these discussions, which opened the day before yesterday, are led by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, while the Palestinians are headed by PLO Executive Committee member Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas].

Neither side has made any statement on the details of these talks. However, 'Abdallah al-Hurani, a member of the Palestinian delegation, told our station yesterday that the Palestinian delegation's action is based on the Palestinian people's full right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state of their own in line with the spirit of the popular uprising and the importance of using it politically.

Reportage on Visit to Amman by French Minister

Interviewed on Middle East

JN280900 Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 28 Jan-3 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] Amman (STAR)—In a special interview French Minister of State, Minister of Economy, Finance and Privatization, Mr. Edouard Balladur, told THE JERUSALEM STAR and AL-DUSTUR newspapers, that his country had not changed its policies regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf War. He said that France supports the holding of an international conference for peace in the Middle East, stands behind Iraq and the Security Council resolution number 598 and objects to Israeli policies in the occupied territories, especially the recent expulsions of four Palestinians from their homeland. Mr Balladur said France looks for better economic relations with Jordan and hopes to cooperate with the Kingdom in the fields of energy and telecommunications.

Mr. Balladur arrived in Jordan on Wednesday. He will be meeting with His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and Finance Minister Hanna 'Awdah. He will leave on Friday from Aqaba.

Following are excerpts from the interview:

On his visit to Jordan Mr. Balladur said that owing to the political circumstances in France during this period, the French prime minister has not been able to visit Jordan in response to His Majesty King Husayn's invitation. He said that he had been asked by Mr. Chirac to represent him personally and to express on his behalf the feelings of consideration and friendship of the French people and of himself towards Jordan.

The first purpose of his visit is to stress the particular quality of the Franco-Jordanian relations and the importance that France attaches to these relations. "I very much hope that it will contribute to reinforce our friendship and widen our cooperation."

Among the important issues that will be discussed during Mr. Balladur's visit will be the present events in the occupied territories. "France is deeply preoccupied by this situation and ready to contribute to the search for a political settlement the necessity of which is proved by the present events," he said.

Commenting on Franco-Jordanian economic relations, the French official said they suffer both from "a too limited scope and an insufficient diversification. French companies are scarce in Jordan. Some disappointments in the past have given them the feeling that the Jordanian market was difficult to enter. I think that this analysis in fact is not founded. Therefore, we must develop our trade relations in the most advanced sectors like telecommunications or energy, but also for current trade where exchanges can be developed both ways."

He said that he would discuss all this with Jordanian interlocutors and "we will see how the contribution that we wish to bring to the development of Jordan can be used better than in the past."

Regarding French policy in relation to the Israeli-Arab conflict Mr Balladur said that it is marked by a remarkable continuity. It is founded on principles defined by General de Gaulle and which have led, in June 1980, to the Declaration of Venice as elaborated by ten European countries. Equally the Twelve have pronounced themselves on 23 February 1987, in favour of an international peace conference, the necessity of which has been stressed by France.

"As far as the recent events in the occupied territories are concerned, France was the first, among the Western countries, to express, on 14 December its reprobation. On 19 December, the French Government underlined, in the same context, the urgent need for opening a dialogue and a negotiation. We believe that this negotiation should take place within an international conference comprising all the parties concerned and the permanent members of the Security Council," he said.

He added that "we have played an active role when the European Community members approached the Israeli authorities. France has, of course, voted in favour of the Resolution adopted by the Security Council on 22 November as it has voted in favour of Resolutions 607 and 608 concerning the expulsion of Palestinians."

France, he said, traditionally provides aid to Palestinian refugees, maintains its assistance to UNRWA. He said that his country's policy is neither more reserved nor more cautious than before.

He also said that France is now prepared to participate in the debate which is starting at the United Nations on the occupied territories. "We will do so with the objective of reaching the widest possible consensus, opening the way to solutions both realistic and in accordance with law and justice."

He said that the French Government had condemned the measures of expulsion taken against 4 Palestinians by Israel. In fact, our ambassador in Israel has warned the Israeli authorities against eventual measures of expulsion."

The French minister said that France had associated itself when the countries of the European Community had approached the Israeli authorities accordingly. It has voted in favour of the two resolutions adopted by the Security Council on 5 and 14 January first inviting Israel to refrain from expelling Palestinian civilians and then calling on Israel to cancel the measures already taken. In this situation, Mr. Balladur said, what is at stake is international law. "Our first duty in such circumstances is to act as a member of the international community, and as a member at the Security Council. We must strive to adopt effective measures which would provide for true protection of the inhabitants of the occupied territories."

But beyond this he added what is at stake is the search for a just and lasting political settlement. The Palestinians must be given in particular the possibility to choose freely their future. Only an international conference will make it possible to reach this goal." [quotation marks as published]

On France's relations with the Arab countries, the French minister said that the fidelity of France to its commitments towards an Arab country in difficulty, Iraq, disturbs some. "This explains the violence of the attacks to which we are periodically subjected and whose purpose is to cast doubt on the continuity of our policy. These attacks are groundless," he said.

"I have noted, through my previous stops during this journey, that no credit was given to these allegations. For the rest, I will just ask you to observe the facts. It is true that we can expel aliens who do not respect the regulations to which they have subscribed-not to indulge into political activities. All democratic countries in the world do the same."

He added that there are more than 30,000 Iranian refugees in France where they enjoy a life without any problem." As Iraq knows very well, there is no change in our policy towards them. Look at what is happening at the United Nations where we are particularly keen to ensure the implementation of Resolution 598. Look at our co-operation with Iraq. Look at our attitude in the Gulf: French ships protect our interests but they participate also in the common deterrence, he said.

Regarding the Iran-Iraq war Mr. Balladur said that France is in favour of the implementation of an arms embargo in relation to Iran. We see that the discussions in the Security Council drag because of the attitude of countries which present themselves as friends of the Arab states but, in fact, display a quite different attitude. France has, since August 1987, stopped buying Iranian oil, he said.

On the Arab-Israeli conflict and the EC French minister said that the Twelve, on the framework of their political co-operation, have, on various occasions, defined clearly their position towards to the Middle East conflict, giving their support to the project of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all parties concerned. The Declarations of the Twelve on 23 February and the 13 July 1987, have clearly expressed the position of the European Community members.

After the Arab Summit of Amman, they have also expressed their satisfaction with the support given by the Arab states to the project of an international conference. "This meeting of views between the states of the Arab League and the Twelve is extremely encouraging. I hope therefore that the next visit in Europe of His Majesty King Husayn will be the occasion to give a new momentum to the peace process. France, in this respect, maintains a close contact with its European partners and all parties concerned."

On the oncoming elections in France this year, Mr. Balludur said that "I don't see how the next elections could have any effect on the traditional attitude of France towards the countries of North Africa. This attitude is clear and well-known. There is no reason why it should change."

Commenting on the problems of indebtedness of the Third World countries he said that, for France, it is a major preoccupation, particularly when very poor countries are concerned, locked in a sort of vicious circle of underdevelopment.

"To help deal with the debt of the developing countries, we have taken, since 1986, a number of initiatives with our industrialized partners, either in the framework of the Club of Paris, or within the international financial institutions. Many of these initiatives are the result of French thinking and proposals. I underline that France has been the first country to support the initiative of tripling the structural adjustment facility of the IMF which will enable to bring substantial support to the poorest countries," he concluded.

Talks With Counterpart

JN281441 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] A meeting was held at the Ministry of Finance this morning between the Jordanian side under Finance Minister Dr Hanna 'Awdah and the French side under Dr Edouard Balladur, minister of finance, economy, and privatization. The two sides reviewed the various economic and trade spheres affecting the two countries, bilateral financial cooperation agreements, and the French Government's contribution toward Jordanian development projects and the development program for the occupied territories.

The two sides agreed on the need to bolster bilateral economic relations to increase their effectiveness in economy and trade.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by the secretary general of the Finance Ministry, the secretary general of the Planning Ministry, the director general of the Budget Department, and a number of officials in the Finance ministry.

It was attended on the French side by the directors of the minister's office for foreign relations, treasury, and privatization; the economic adviser in the Ministry of Finance and Economy; the French ambassador in Amman; and a number of officials in the Ministry.

Received by Al-Rifa'i

JN281301 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has affirmed that peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through an international conference to be attended by all parties concerned in the conflict as well as the five UN Security Council permanent member states.

This came when the prime minister met in his office this morning with Edouard Balladur, French deputy prime minister and minister of economy, finance, and privatization, who is currently visiting Jordan. During the meeting they reviewed the developments of political events in the Middle East, headed by the situation in the occupied Arab territories in light of the current popular uprising against the Israeli occupation. They also reviewed relations between Jordan and France and ways to promote and bolster these relations in the interest of both countries.

The French minister affirmed that the French and Jordanian viewpoints are identical regarding finding a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis and ending the Iraq-Iran war.

The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Dr Hanna 'Awdah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Fayiz al-Tarawinah, the French ambassador in Amman, and the delegation accompanying Mr Balladur.

Announces Increased Aid

LD282308 Paris Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Edouard Balladur, French minister of state for economy and finance, who is now visiting Jordan, has announced France's readiness to step up its financial aid to Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied territories.

At a news conference, the minister of state added that France has already increased its humanitarian aid to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which came to Fr10 million last year, as opposed to Fr4 million in 1986. According to the minister, this decision reflects France's determination to offer additional assistance to the inhabitants of these territories. Edouard Balladur added that the aid was channeled through the French Consulate in Jerusalem and a number of international humanitarian organizations.

U.S. Warned Against Further Pressuring Arabs

JN281047 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28-29 Jan 88 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Should Look in its Own Backyard"]

[Text] Washington was the scene of a flurry of Middle East related diplomatic activity this week, crowned by the meeting today between President Ronald Reagan and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. While it is too early to say what could come out of the meetings the Egyptian president had with the American leaders, including the secretaries of state, defence and the Treasury, the Reagan administration appeared to have given a new force to Middle East diplomacy by meeting two leading Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza.

Notwithstanding the possibility that the meeting Secretary of State George Shultz had with Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah was aimed at displaying some kind of momentum in peace efforts, it is clear that the secretary of state could, in fact, arrive at a clearer picture of what is happening in the occupied territories and its far-reaching implications.

Coupled with what Mubarak had to offer in the way of his proposal for a six-month moratorium on violence and a freeze in Israeli settlement in the West Bank and Gaza, and the "briefing" that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's envoy, Eliakim Rubinstein, gave to State Department officials Tuesday, Washington does not have to look further to find where the problem lies; it is right in its own backyard.

The stand that the U.S. Adminstration has adopted towards the proposal for an international conference on the Middle East is no longer ambiguous; Shultz made it clear that Washington has no intention, at this point in time, to accept the proposal when he kept a pointed silence in response to the Soviet call for a Security Council initiative to pave the way for the conference, and reportedly instructed his delegate at the U.N. to reject the call.

Thus, it remains a mystery what the U.S. plans to do, having already said that it does not consider Mubarak's proposal as a peace plan. It would be wishful thinking to hope for American pressure on Shamir to drop his objections to an international conference. If anything, Rubinstein is in Washington not only to reaffirm Shamir's rejection of the conference, but also to convey the Likud leader's opposition to the Mubarak proposal.

So, the logical candidate for American pressure is the Arabs. But it would be one of the Reagan administration's gravest mistakes if it sought to convince the Arabs to accept whatever Shamir has in mind for the Palestinian land and people. Enough is enough; we have had more than our share of procrastination from Washington, and it is time the American leadership accepted the reality that if pressure is to be applied it should be on Israel, which undaunted by the international outcry over its oppression of the Palestinian people, appears to be trying to rewrite the history of state-sponsored brutality against a people.

U.S. Policy 'Prolonging' Mideast 'Tragedy'

JN281316 Amman AL-RA'Y IN Arabic 28 Jan 88 P 1

[Editorial: "The Glorious Uprising in Its 8th Week"]

[Text] Now that the glorious uprising in the West Bank and Gaza has entered its 8th week, there is a growing and renewed conviction in the Arab world and the world at large that the events taking place behind the walls of occupation are not a passing phenomenon. Rather, they constitute a revolution by a great people who have chosen to break the tedious state of inaction that has continued for 2 decades without the peace process taking any real action to free our people from Israeli intransigence.

Thus, the steadfast Palestinian has taken the initiative into his own hands, and has asserted his existence and right to freedom and life. He has proved to all Arabs that the option of force must never be dropped, but must be in the forefront of the inevitable choices for struggle to liberate the land and man across the river.

Since Jordan is fully aware of this fact, it has always been in the lead among those calling for building up the intrinsic power of the Arabs. Jordan has always believed that struggle alone will prompt the community of nations to translate its support for Palestinian rights into positive action. That is why Jordan appealed to the UN Security Council to exercise its powers and assume its responsibilities in light of the report submitted by the UN secretary general demanding the immediate convocation of an international conference.

We must warn that any attempts by the United States to hamper the Council's work and delay the international conference will only further inflame conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Such action would also force the Arabs to give serious thought to what must be done to face the American challenge, which is blocking the regional peace process.

No one doubts that U.S. policy is greatly responsible, for it has been a major factor in prolonging the Palestinian people's tragedy. In fact, this policy could expose the region to greater danger and prevent the establishment of peace. For all these reasons, the community of nations is called upon to act quickly in urging Washington to answer the wishes of this community, which wants the international conference.

Undoubtedly, this community, too, must translate its resolutions into action. Resolutions on an international conference will not free the consciences of those who issued them, nor will they be worth the paper on which they are printed if they do not lead to a conference with full powers and specific objectives, represented by Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and the Palestinian people's exercise of their national rights, especially that of self-determination on their land.

Further Reportage on Schray Kidnapping

Syria Working for Release

NC281616 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Damascus considers the abduction of West German national Ralph Schray to be a violation of the Syrian security plan in West Beirut. According to a Syrian source, Damascus is doing its best to free him and warns that the perpetrators will not escape punishment. The same source adds that Damascus views the kidnapping as a challenge to its military presence. The source affirms that Damascus has warned the kidnappers, demanding that they release their hostage. Syria, the source continues, is dealing with the matter seriously and has sent ultimatums to the parties concerned to free Schray immediately.

Group Claims Responsibility

NC281746 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1725 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] An anonymous caller speaking on behalf of the Revolutionary Justice Organization has claimed his group's responsibility for the kidnapping of Ralph Schray in a telephone call to the Voice of Lebanon. Here is a recording of the call:

[Begin recording] [Caller] We in the Revolutionary Justice Organization claim responsibility for the kidnapping of the German national Ralph Schray and warn the Syrian forces against committing any stupidity in this connection, to which we would have to respond.

[Announcer] You usually send a photo.

[Caller] That will be done in maybe 2 days. [end recording]

Eyewitness Claims Sighting

NC290620 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] REUTER has quoted an eyewitness in the Zuqaqal-Balat area [of West Beirut] as saying that he has seen Ralph Schray being moved from one car trunk to another. He added that Schray's glasses had been smashed and his face was stained with blood.

Purpose of Iranians' Mission Discussed

NC290701 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] The Central News Agency has cited highly placed sources as saying that an Iranian delegation made up of the deputy of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, two ranking officers, and a spiritual guide, arrived in the southern suburb via Damascus 2 days ago. The agency said that the delegation had been instructed to supervise the Syrian plan concerning the camps and its impact on the pro-Iran elements in the area. The agency added that the delegation's mission is also connected with the issue of the hostages and Hizballah's educational and military problems.

It should be recalled that the Iranian Embassy in Beirut announced yesterday that two Iranian delegations will arrive in Beirut within the next 48 hours. The embassy added that one of the delegations is led by Dr Kharrazi, official in charge of information affairs in the Supreme Defense Council, and that his mission is exploratory. The other delegation, however, will participate in the celebrations to be held on the anniversary of the Iranian Revolution.

9 February Attacks Syrian Center; Casualties

NC281009 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for an attack on a Syrian occupation forces center near Al-Minyah in the north at 2200 yesterday. The organization said that the unit used RPG's and machineguns in the attack and inflicted a number of casualties on the Syrian forces.

Resistance Fires at Israeli Settlement

NC281259 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] A national resistance group operating inside the occupied border area fired three Grad missiles at the Ramim settlement in occupied Galilee at dawn today. The enemy's radio admitted the attack and the fact that four agent soldiers were wounded when resistance fighters fired mortar shells and light weapons at the agents' positions.

The resistance men attacked the Bra'shit and Rshaf positions at dawn today for 45 minutes. The agents retaliated by shelling the villages of Hattin, Yatar, Kafra, and Haris.

At midnight yesterday, the Islamic resistance fighters laid an ambush on the road leading to Markaba. They detonated an explosive device as an Israeli patrol was passing and then showered the patrol with machinegun and rocket fire. As a result, one Merkava tank was damaged, one M-113 vehicle was destroyed, and several patrol members were either killed or wounded.

Four Nepalese and Irish forces' positions operating with the UNIFIL came under artillery fire from agent positions. There were no casualties.

Resistance Claims 15 Casualties in Attack

NC281351 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] At dawn today, groups of resistance fighters carried out an attack on positions of the enemy and his agents on Rshaf hills, Haddathah, Ru'aysat al-Jamus, Jabal Humayd, and Bra'shit. They succeeded in storming the Rshaf position and destroyed its fortifications, killing or wounding more than 15 enemy and agent soldiers.

Israeli Warplanes Carry Out 'Mock Raids'

NC281959 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] At about 2000 today, Israeli warplanes carried out mock raids over the Al-Awwali Bridge. Israeli gunboats were also seen sailing off the coast between Sidon and Tyre at 1645.

Boats Fire Flares

NC282034 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Israeli boats fired flares over Sidon and the surrounding area this evening. The boats are now cruising along the coast between Al-Awwali and Al-Sarafand.

Briefs

Egyptian Envoy Departs

President Amin al-Jumayyil this afternoon received Ambassador Nuhad 'Asqalani, head of the Egyptian Interests Section in Lebanon, prior to the latter's departure for a new post in his country's embassy in Greece. [Excerpt] [*(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Jan 88 NC*]

Al-Shar' To Visit Teheran 'Within Next 2 Days'

JN281721 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will pay a visit to Teheran within the next 2 days to convey a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Interior Minister, Iranian Envoy Discuss Ties

LD281709 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Damascus, Jan. 28, IRNA—Syrian Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah said here Thursday that Tehran-Damascus friendly ties will continue to be strengthened despite schemings by enemies of the two countries to mar them.

Harbah made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian ambassador to Syria Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari here, where he said the Islamic Republic has spared no efforts to mobilize all its resources to fight the regime occupying holy Al-Quds, the common foe of the Muslim and the Arab world.

He also welcomed visit to Syria by a large number of Iranian pilgrims visiting the shrine of Hazrat Zainab (AS), the grand-daughter of the Prophet (SAW). Syrian Government organizations concerned will do their best to provide Iranian pilgrims with all facilities, he promised.

Hoj. Akhtari, underscoring the importance of Tehran-Damascus profound ties, strongly denounced the Zionist regime's atrocities against the struggling Muslims in occupied Palestine.

He said the Islamic Republic is ready to help any force determined to liberate holy Al-Quds.

Khaddam Receives Hungary's Gyula Horn 28 Jan

JN281953 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam this morning received Gyula Horn, state secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hungary, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by the Hungarian ambassador in Damascus. Discussion revolved around the international situation, recent developments in the regional situation, and bilateral relations.

TISHRIN Cited on Reasons For Mubarak Tour

JN281032 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Jan 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "On Begging for Outside Solutions," the newspaper TISHRIN says: There is no doubt that the Egyptian president's current tour and his consultations with Westerners and the Americans reflect profound concern over the Egyptian masses great dissatisfaction with the existing regime and with its policies on dealing with Israel. The Egyptian Government has forcibly prevented the Egyptian masses from expressing their solidarity with the Palestinian people's uprising. It has also quelled demonstrations by force and besieged universities. Nevertheless, Cairo and other cities have witnessed numerous demonstrations voicing support for the Palestinian people and denouncing both Israel and the policies that deal with it. Moreover, the demonstrators chanted anti-Camp David slogans, demanding that the Zionists be expelled from Egypt and that this Arab country be brought back to its Arab family, atmosphere, and militant position.

The Egyptian officials realize that the Zionist entity is not concerned with the Palestinian people's ordeal. The Zionist leaders believe that they have concluded a barter agreement with Egypt so that Egypt relinquishes its Arab commitments and pan-Arab affiliation in exchange for returning Sinai to Egypt. These leaders daily affirm this barter agreement and despise the Egyptian officials' remarks about peace. For the Zionists, peace means that Egypt should abandon Palestine, that Egypt should be neutral, and that Israel should be given a free hand both in Palestine and in the region. What sparks attention is that the Egptian Government daily reiterates its commitment to Camp David at a time when Israel is only interested in its own expansionist ambitions. The current Egyptian move reflects their officials' concern over the collapse of the Camp David accords in Egypt and that the Palestinian uprising may prompt a similar uprising in their country.

TISHRIN concludes: The Camp David collapse is a popular demand by both Egyptians and Arabs. Commitment to the Arab nation's causes, headed by the Palestine question, is a measure of Egypt's and the Arab nation's faithfulness. Begging for U.S. solutions has never rescued a single regime. It is sufficient to recall that Reagan said he oppose acts of violence if they can be avoided, and that Israel is forced to use violence.

AL-BA'TH Views Gulf War, Pan-Arab Unity

JN281016 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Jan 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria and the True Concern for the Pan-Arab Cause," the newspaper AL- BA'TH says in its editorial today: The policy Syria has adopted in dealing with the regional events has never emanated from transient considerations or from Arab reactions, nor has it been based on a narrow-minded concept or on a partial analysis. Syrian policy has always emanated from a consistent, unwavering, and absolute commitment to the pan-Arab cause. This absolute commitment is based on a deep, farsighted strategic conept that realizes the dimensions of the conflict, knows its priorities, and defines the basic danger posed to the Arab nation. This danger is represented by the Zionist threat and the imperialsit forces that support it.

AL-BA'TH adds: In accordance with this principled policy, Syria has exerted intensive efforts to contain the Iraqi-Iran war, to stop the deterioration in the Gulf situation, to keep foreign elements away from the Gulf, and to establish channels for dialogue and understanding between the Gulf states and Iran. These efforts, which Syria has exerted and continues to exert, are not transient or temporary and were neither a result nor a violation of the Amman summit resolutions. These efforts are in continuation of a pan-Arab, principled Syrian policy which emanates from the known Syrian assessment of the Iraq-Iran war. This assessment stresses that this war does not serve Iraq, the Arabs, or the struggle for the Palestinian Arab people's rights and for liberating the occupied Arab territories. Moreover, this war does not serve Iran, nor does it serve the supposed relations of cooperation with Iran to wage the joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

AL-BA'TH continues: Syria intervenes or makes efforts to contain this war and prevent its spread to nonbelligerent states out of its own convictions, out of care for the security, stability, and interests of the Arab states in the Gulf, and out of concern for the future of Iranian-Arab relations—relations which are necessary, unavoidable, and take into consideration the higher interests of both Iran and the Arabs. Now that the recent Syrian Arab initiative in the Gulf has reduced escalation, eased tension, and established channels for dialogue between the Gulf states and Iran, the only parties that will be harmed by the new situation are Israel and imperialism. Any step taken to improve relations between the Arab Gulf states and Iran will be a step against the Zionist-imperialist scheme which seeks to involve Arabs in a war that is not an Arab one.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Truth is evident and so is falsehood; they cannot be mixed by means of articles, statements, trading with pan-Arab slogans, or forging the road to and the truth of the pan-Arab battle. The road to such a battle is clear, and its truth is bright and cannot be misinterpreted. The uprising being waged by the stone-throwing generations has defined for all Arabs the road to the battle and its accompanying commitment. We believe there is no brighter ray of light than the one which has emerged from Palestine pointing to the source of danger and to the battle's arena, as well as to the dimensions of the pan-Arab duty.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Reports to 27 Jan PDPA Plenum

LD282109 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] A regular plenum of the PDPA Central Committee was convened yesterday. Esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Republic of Afghanistan, delivered the basic report of the plenum on implementing the policy of national reconciliation and the immediate duties of the party in implementing the Constitution.

Esteemed Najibullah said that the convocation of the historical Grand Assembly, the approval of the Constitution, and the election of the president were great events in our country's life.

We celebrated the first anniversary of the national reconciliation policy some time ago. After a period of more than 365 days since the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy, national reconciliation was transformed from a slogan and an invitation into a system of measures in the political, economic, military, social, international, and other spheres, which cover the principles of a national and democratic revolution and the specifications of Afghanistan's society.

This policy has been turned into a new political thought in state politics, and into a philosophy of peace. The implementation of the national reconciliation policy has naturally raised the prestige of our party among the masses. The people see in our party the power which can lead the country to peace.

Esteemed Najibullah assessed the 1-year gains of national reconciliation, and said: The role of political life has increased more than at any other time. The party sessions held in Hamal [21 March-20 April] under a single agenda; the national investors conference; the congresses of social organizations and creative intellectuals; the tradesmen's congress; the Hazara nationality assembly and assemblies of nomads; and the international conference of journalists of nonaligned coutries have had a profound effect in uniting the various forces in the struggle for the cause of peace.

The nationwide party conference and the Grand Assembly of peace, which approved the Constitution and elected the president, were transformed into high peaks in our sociopolitical life.

The formation of groups by the leftist democratic parties—including the Toilers Revolutionary Organization of Afghanistan and the Toilers Organization of Afghanistan—is considered an important gain. The new parties—the Islamic Party of Afghanistan's People and the Justice Party of Afghanistan's Peasants—were formed. This year we further strengthened our proud Armed Forces. In the economic field, in order to comprehensively attract all economic resources, social classes and stratas of social life, certain work was carried out.

In addition to strengthening the state sector, new possibilities became available for activities by private investors. Mixed establishments developed and specific steps were taken in the sphere of agrarian policy. During the last year, more than at any other time, work was carried out to resolve social issues, develop education, public health and culture, and raise salaries of workers and employees and give them extra concessions.

Afghanistan intensified its activities in the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement. Relations are being consolidated with Islamic countries. National reconciliation, as a model of our new political thinking, is being transformed into a component of world politics.

Esteemed Najibullah added: Still, we cannot be satisfied with what we have achieved during the past year. We must critically assess the path we have traveled. We should think about the lessons and make the right assessment for further progress. A complex and turning point has come into the lives of our people. The content of all our political activities is embodied in resolving the strategic tasks of ensuring peace and security, creating a coalition government and a multiparty system, and consolidating the state's foundations as a nonaligned, independent, and neutral state.

Esteemed Najibullah, specifying the basic directions and further tasks of the party in the political, military, economic, social, and foreign policy spheres, said: We are bound to serve our people with honesty. Our people must be held very dear to us. The people are weary of war and demand peace and security from us. The fulfillment of this demand is the meaning of the national reconciliation policy, of our activity, and of our life.

The plenum participants listened attentively to President Najibullah's speech.

In its afternoon session the plenum continued its work in the following sections: the PDPA and the Armed Forces within the coalition; strengthening the PDPA and its joint efforts with state bodies and social organizations; the economic policy of the PDPA within the coalition and a multiparty system; PDPA political-training work in the new conditions; the PDPA's foreign policy activity; and the development of interparty ties.

Approximately 113 plenum participants presented their views and proposals.

Major General Muhammad Rafi', Lieutenant General Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, Lieutenant General Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, Farid Ahmad Mozdak, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, Nafas Sayyed, Fazl Ahmad Toghyan, Saleh Muhammad Ziray, Faruq Karmand, Brigadier General

Muhammad 'Azim Zurmati, Brigadier General Abdurrauf Dehi, Mir Saheb Karwal, Karim Dehqan, Mir Abdullah, Niaz Muhammad Mohmand, Muhammad Hashim Zahmat, Ghulam Sakhi Kargar, Hayder Mas'ud, Sayyed Ekram Paygir, and Najmuddin Kawiani spoke during the morning session, and expressed their approval and support for the plenum basic report.

The plenum considered organizational issues and promoted 'Abdul Zohur Razmjo, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee, as secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

Awraq Dehqan, Kheyali Kargar, Abdurrauf Begi, and Mir Afghan Bawari were promoted from candidate membership to full membership of the PDPA Central Committee. 'Abdul Khalil Sepahi and 'Abdul Satar Mukamel were also appointed as full members of the PDPA Central Committee.

Amanullah Ustowar, Jamshid Paymard, Rahmatullah Hamdard, Shirin Afzali, 'Abdul Motalib, Ghulam Mustafa Yusufzay, Gul Rahman, Muhammad Hashim Zahmat, and Yar Muhammad were appointed as candidate members of the PDPA Central Committee.

The plenum also appointed Rahmatullah Tufan, Huseyn Karwan, 'Abdul Aziz Saghari, 'Ata Muhammad Paktin, 'Abdul Ahad, Brigadier General Amir Muhammad, 'Abdul Qadir, and Daud Mazyar as members of the Central Auditing Commission of the PDPA Central Committee.

The plenum issued a resolution on the results of implementing the national reconciliation policy, the circumstances under which the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan is being implemented, and the party's infallible duties.

At the end of the plenum, esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Republic of Afghanistan, made his closing speech. He assessed the work of the plenum and specified the duties of PDPA committees, organizations, and members in accelerating the process of national reconciliation.

The plenum ended its work in an atmosphere of revolutionary enthusiasm, comradely unity, and solidarity.

Najibullah Addresses Afro-Asian Writers Symposium

LD281602 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1630 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Speech by President Najibullah to African and Asian writers symposium meeting in Kabul on 24 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] Allow me to welcome you to Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, on behalf of the Repubic of Afghanistan Government and the PDPA. As you are coming here from Poems Night, I could be somewhat far from your thoughts, so accept my apology. In fact, these thoughts which emanate from beauty and goodness give us the right to be attached to you.

You are touring this country at a time when just a few weeks ago we celebrated the first anniversary of the declaration of the national reconciliation policy. This is a policy which does not include an abstract national ideology nor is it a [word indistinct] and mechanical phenomenon. However, it is a matter which includes the complex elements of the overall process of maintaining world peace.

We consider this policy a strong link in the chain of a new way of political thinking. New political thinking, in other words, means the interests of mankind are to come before all values, especially in the present complicated and threatening situation of lethal nuclear arms. We are entitled to claim that we were able to impose on imperialism—despite its militarist and colonialist character—the peace-loving policy of a broad bloc and front including the USSR; all socialist countries; and progressive world, liberation, and workers movements as a massive universal force, as a result of the consistent implementation of the Leninist policy of the CPSU and the USSR.

Yesterday the elimination of medium-range nuclear arms was considered a dream, but today we note that it has become a reality. We are anticipating another treaty soon in Moscow to eliminate 50 percent of strategic weapons. We are expecting a treaty which would eliminate various types of nuclear arms by 2000, treaties which would eliminate chemical weapons, and a discussion on reducing conventional arms and forces in the world.

I apologize. Comrades know these things but it is a preface to how we put forward the issue of reconciliation and how [words indistinct]. Therefore, these changes in economic forms in Soviet society have got to bring changes in the suprastructure, in other words, more democratization of society's socioeconomic life.

In a world where mutual understanding and realization come to view instead of confrontation, an arms race, and wars [words indistinct]. Therefore, the question of broadening democracy, which is called openness by you, is being raised.

Another issue is regional conflicts which cannot be ignored. At the top of this rests the hotbed, the complex, odd, and hot issue of Afghanistan. Therefore, as responsible and committed forces, armed with progressive ideology, we have to carry out our duties for maintaining peace at the universal level. But how should we carry it out? We say that the national reconciliation policy can be taken into account as a serious formula for resolving regonal disputes which in their own right helps maintain peace and security in the region and thereby maintain peace and security in the world.

On the other hand, we clearly say that for 9 years an undeclared war has been waged against our country and our people by imperialism, which has no message for us but bloodshed, destruction, misery, and killing.

This is another task for us: ending the bloodshed, war, and fratricide; and bringing prosperity and happiness to our people. We can only reach prosperity if we maintain peace in the country. [Words indistinct] we consider peace a means of revolution.

If the dawn of revolution is not guaranteed, what will be the use of peace? We gave a simple and clear answer. The national democratic April Revolution has not been totally recognized because we took peace away from the people. So, peace and revolution must not oppose each other but they must serve each other and they are to be studied as related and parallel to one another. There are two issues which made us launch the national reconciliation policy.

These two stages made us launch the national reconciliation policy as a complex within the socioeconomic, political, military, organizational, and structural areas, as well as in the area of foreign relations.

Fortunately, this policy was welcomed by the people of Afghanistan. None of the PDPA slogans were as welcomed and as accepted as this slogan of national reconciliation, which attracted the interest of the people, was accepted. This policy was regarded as an alternative to war, and it has one clear outcome: It has become reality. All of the various political factions, whether in agreement or against it, whether they want to or not, are bound to (?employ) this policy themselves. I will mention the following events as examples:

Ziaul Haq and Junejo announced that the seven alliance leaders must think about how they will take part together with the PDPA in a coalition government. Or, a while ago Ziaul Haq said that a coalition government can be formed with the participation of the PDPA. He has accepted the foundation of reconciliation. Now the question is what share the PDPA should have in a coalition government.

Despite the warmongering characteristic of imperialism, the policy of peaceful coexistence has been imposed on these forces, and now it is a recognized policy embodied in the UN Charter. It has been accepted as a general international norm and international law [word indistinct].

We should also be able to impose the policy of national reconciliation on the opposite side through relentless efforts, continuous endeavors, and practical measures, and through the broad dimension of the power of maneuvers, dynamism, and retreat and various forms and methods.

I must say clearly to you that we have not reached the stage at which we can say that this policy has reached its turning point and has thus became invincible. Our policy developed gradually and in the process took on various dimensions. It was complicated, but at the same time had a relevance to (?good) dialectic.

We can tell you explicitly that when we declared this policy we did not know fully all its extended and complicated dimensions and its dark angles. We do not claim that this policy is comprehensive. But we have learned and will learn more about this policy at the time of movement and motion. It is better to take a step in the darkness and come out in a bright light than to take a step in bright light and come out in darkness.

Designing and following such a policy undoubtedly requires courage and bravery. Such courage must be able to see bright light beyond the darkness and, therefore, must be realistic. But mere repetition of revolutionary slogans cannot bring about revolution. In order to meet the task of the revolution the path must be chosen, the means determined, and, above all, steps must be taken on this path, and the barriers on this path must be removed. Any policy, even if it is a correct and principled policy, cannot be ralized if you do not take steps. A policy by itself cannot be realized.

However, our policy has difficulties. I am not hiding anything from you. We have objective difficulties, starting with the counterrevolutionaries and the forces of reaction in the region and their international supporters. They want this policy to fail. They create various obstacles in different forms. They have objectives and purposes behind this, but their objectives and purposes are obvious to you.

At the same time, however, we have intellectual obstacles as well. Two points of view or two ideas of the norm (?bring about) mental difficulty. We say explicitly that we have created a party and government mechanism in the 8 years since the revolution. No unity of broad political forces was in question, nor was the unity of various strata and classes. There was one party, the PDPA.

If these conditions are altered and the limited contingents of the Soviet Union soon return to their country; if the one-party system changes to a multiparty system; if the one-party government changes to a coalition government; if [word indistinct] broad concentration of the political forces are in question and with it the entire government structure is changed, then the democratic foundations are altered. These democratic foundations maintain the traditional characteristics of most directions and do not impose anything on society for which society is not ready. It has been tested, and it is wrong to test again what has already been tested.

Considering these historical, religious, tribal, and independent traditions, a new composition of a series of issues must be forthcoming. In this composition there is a dialectic that we should open our way forward. Now, under the new circumstances, the party must regulate its relations and ties regarding the presidency, government, ministries, local organs of state power and administration, the issue of the organs of mass media, parliament, the senate, various other parties, the coordination council of these parties, and with all these directions.

The party and government system that over the course of 8 years, in a natural way, became accustomed to a different way, cannot be changed immediately by dictation and order. We cannot ask this, nor it is natural that within 2 days this system should change and adapt itself to the new conditions. Until the natural way is found, this system sometimes prevents the advancement of our tasks.

A question can be raised: Should we dispose of everything in this system? The government systems from top to bottom; 100,000 party members, half a million Armed Forces, 300,000 trade union members, 120,000 women's organization members, 230,000 youth organization members. Should we collect all this and throw it into the Indian or Atlantic Ocean? This is not possible.

Therefore, inevitably we are bound to walk with this system and also correct it. We must implement the policy [of national reconciliation] so that the complex system lying before us takes shape and sits in its place and is constructed and developed.

Such difficulties bring about a new psychology in the mind of some comrades, causing them to become unstable, to hesitate and become suspicious. As we have (?analyzed), difficulties crop up in a natural way, and some lose their interest; a governor one day, an assisatnt governor the next; a minister yesterday, but a deputy minister today and tomorrow another position. They sabotage this policy too. Thus they intend to propagate suspicion and hesitation and turn it into a general psychology, alleging that the national reconciliation policy is not clear, its future is unknown, and we are following a road that is dark.

Who benefits from it? If the policy of reconciliation is based on compromises, what (?type of) compromise? Is principled compromise in question? What do we give and what do we gain?

Someone asked me: What do you lose, and what do you gain? I gave him a simple answer: What do you take from the opposite side? We have presented 16 or 20 compromise proposals in all areas.

Esteemed friends, it is not hidden from you. Three million Afghans are outside the country.

I asked a comrade: Of the 3 million people of Afghanistan who are outside the country, are all of them yesterday's technocrats? Are all of them yesterday's bureaucrats? Are all of them feudalists? He said no. The majority of them are village people, nomads, and toiling people who have a miserable life in the camps.

Therefore, with responsibility we proclaimed this policy and we regard as our first duty the restoration of peace and security. Fortunately, we have achieved some results. Despite obstacles created by the Pakistani and Iranian rulers, so far 110,000 people have returned to the country, while during the past 8 years 37,000 refugees returned to the country. Despite all the obstacles, 110,000 people returned in 1 year.

During 8 years, 12,000 of the armed opposition have come over to the side of the government, while during the year of national reconciliation 40,000 came over to the side of the government. In addition to this, 150,000 unarmed civilian people who had gone up with them into the mountains have resumed their peaceful life.

During 8 years, 6,200 villages were liberated by force and pressure, while in 1 year of national reconciliation, 3,200 villages have been liberated by peaceful means. About 19,000 prisoners have been released from jail.

During the year of reconciliation, we convened for the first time in the history of our country an assembly of the Hazara nationality. Clearly and with responsibility we report to you that since the convocation of this assembly the central regions of Afghanistan are not in actual hostile war with the central government. They are in a neutral position, and we are hoping that the neutral stage develops.

For the first time in the history of our country, an assembly of the country's 2 million Kuchi people was convened.

During the year of national reconciliation, we convened, for the first time, a conference of private investors. All legal guarantees for their active participation in areas of the national economy's growth came about, and they voluntarily and actively take part in this process. So far they have revived or newly constructed about 52 projects during the past few months, and they are making preparations for another 147 projects.

For the first time we convened a conference or congress of tradesmen in the country, and we have regulated our policy vis-a-vis them [words indistinct]. We should also say that the congress of the creative unions, including the congress of Afghanistan's writers society, were convened this year.

During this period, we convened the nationwide PDPA conference, which is regarded as a great event in the history of our party. The conference approved our new policy of national reconciliation even as our enemies, opponents, and vacillating elements were saying that this policy is not supported by the party.

Similarly, the traditional Grand Assembly of Afghanistan, which was unprecedented in history from the viewpoint of its social composition and its size, was convened in a highly democratic atmosphere. Its proceedings were broadcast live to the whole country and the whole world via radio and television. The Grand Assembly approved the two main links in the evolution and acceleration of the process of national reconciliation, one being the election of the president and the other the approval of the Constitution.

In accordance with the Constitution, which is 1 and 1/2 months old, elections should be held within 6 months for the parliament of Afghanistan, which we call the National Assembly. A new government should be appointed and the new government should receive a vote of confidence from the parliament. In this manner, the process of democratizing the social and political life of the country will be speeded up. Other political parties have been registered, and a decree concerning their free activities have been issued. At present, the leadership of various parties are engaged in forming a leftist and democratic bloc and are preparing a political platform, the work for which is in its final stages.

We announced a coalition. A coalition at lower levels is increasingly taking place in Afghanistan through the initiative of the people themselves and the supervision of the PDPA and other political forces. We have announced specific posts for the opposition, and we hope that with progress in the external manifestation of the process of national reconciliation; namely, the Geneva talks, this process, the process of coalition, and the formation of a coalition government in Afghanistan, will be accelerated.

Cordovez is in Kabul, and we met with him today. Afghanistan will once again go to the next round of talks, which will be held in February, with a constructive and flexible stance and with a responsible attitude for the political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. We hope that the next round of talks be the final round, provided that Pakistan will have both a constructive stance and to an extent perform its role independently—not servilely listening to others.

In any event, for us this policy has resulted in enhancing both the credibility of the PDPA in society and the role of the Republic of Afghanistan in the international arena. The greatest achievement for us from this policy is that the responsibility for the continuation of war and bloodshed no longer rests on us. It rests on the shoulders of those whose approach to these issues is dogmatic, rigid, rash and irresponsible. This fact has caused differences in the higher ruling echelons of the United States and Pakistan and the leadership echelons of the seven-party alliance of the mujahidin, as well as causing differences between the seven parties' leadership abroad and the commanders of the mujahidin inside the country.

In the coalition, we basically count on the Armed Forces of the opposition inside the country and the second-ranking commanders. This has caused the seven party leaders to worry lest they are left out of the process and isolated. Thus, day by day, various factions and the people are coming to believe in the righteousness of the policy of national reconciliation.

After this summary, we should say that alongside our complex approach and in addition to other operative [as heard], political, economic and military duties facing us, there is also another front, which is the role of our intellectuals, writers, and poets in the process of implementing national reconciliation and realizing peace and tranquility in the country. We regard this role as significant and enormous, and can say that our writers, intellectuals and poets can perform their historic mission armed with a weapon more powerful than the Stingers—with the pen—and with trenches which are stronger than our Bala Hesar [a fort in Kabul city] and the Dien Bien Phu of Vietnam—with the trenches of literature and culture.

We say frankly that we are thankful and we appreciate the fact that since the revolution, and particularly during the year of national reconciliation, a revolutionary and popular literature has been created which is fundamentally different from that in the past in subject, content, topic, and artistic imagination. A series of works have been created by our writers which reflect the contemporary realities of our society and the world.

We can appreciate the role of the literary works of our dear writers and poets such as Akram Osman, Bareq Shafi'i, Sulayman La'eq, Ghows Khaybari, Amin Afghanpur, esteemed Panjsheri, Asadullah Habib, Wasif Bakhtar, and the rest of the comrades and others. Of course, for us these dear and well-known poets and writers have played their respectful role in the propaganda of the policy of national reconciliation. And in one word, they have stood and will be standing by their people and the aspirations and lofty interests of the people and revolution.

With pride we can say that broad and comprehensive learning of our various nationalities' literatures has begun. The literature of the Baluchis, Turkmans, and Uzbeks, and for the first time work is being done on Nuristani and Pasha'i scripts. However, all these efforts have been directed toward one goal: We want the people belonging to these nationalities to become closer and have a correct perception of each other through work in these areas; namely, through the literature and culture of other nationalities.

We regard this as an internationalist or inter-nationalities revolutionary and progressive approach. When we raise the question of nationalities, or inter-nationalities, inside the country, we cannot forget inter-nationalities in the world.

Undoubtedly, the subject of peace, friendship, and solidarity between the people of the world is an issue. There must be reciprocal understanding, and no individual or power can better accomplish a miraculous task than the creation of artistic work to strengthen this link. There is proof that nations learn about each other through history and literature. [passage omitted on various literary works in the Soviet Union and France and how writers can better raise their voices against war]

In conclusion, I want once again to ask our writers and the writers of the friendly countries and countries of the world, who share a common urgent interest in humanity, to expose the nature of the socioeconomic phenomenon of our society to the world public, and to talk with the deceived people outside our country who live in various countries of the world under the influence of enemy propaganda.

Thus they can accomplish their role in restoring peace in our country, a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan, normalizing the situation in the region, and cooling down another hotbet of tension in South Asia, in Southwest Asia. It is not an unwise saying that when the sound of music is heard the (?noise) of bullets quiets down.

I want to say with pride and delight: Thank you for giving me this opportunity and for spending your time with me. It has given me courage to have this meeting here with figures who create praiseworthy works and fight against ugliness and wickedness.

We wish you formidable victories in your future tasks for the love of the people [words indistinct]. I hope you pay many visits to our country.

We have a form of poetry in Pashto called Landay. This type of poetry has no particular poet. Its creator is the people. Therefore, I can tell you that from the rhyme to the content, from the style to the subject, this form of poetry is of extremely high quality, and nothing else can compete with it. Over the centuries these poems have passed from one heart to another, from one mouth to another, and become rich and beautiful.

This poetry says: Love increases by visits. Sometimes you will come, and sometimes I will come my beloved one. [preceding paragraph in Pashto]

'Extremist' Attack Reported in Faryab Province

LD281806 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] The extremist elements have once again shown their anti-Islamic and inhumane nature by firing mortar shells at the residential areas of Meymaneh, Faryab Province.

According to a BIA report, as a result of mortar fire by these criminals, three of our compatriots were badly injured and the agricultural school and the communal mosque of that province were badly damaged.

The victims of the incident were immediately sent to the hospital and their condition is improving.

Bangladesh

30 Injured in Clashes in Rajshahi 28 Jan

BK290334 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, at least 30 people, including 13 policemen, were injured in a pitched battle between students and the police in the western city of Rajshahi yesterday. Reports from Dhaka say police used batons and tear gas to break up a student procession, which was taken out in protest against the parliamentary elections due to be held in March this year. Ten of the injured, including four policemen, have been admitted to the hospital in a serious condition. Two persons have been arrested.

100 Reportedly Hurt

BK290802 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Reports from Bangladesh say about 100 people were injured in clashes between students and police at Rajshahi and Sylhet yesterday. The injured include 15 policemen. Police used tear gas and lathi [baton] charges at an anti-election students rally at Rajshahi. In another incident in Sylhet, police lathi charged students when they were protesting against the signing of an agreement by the government with a foreign oil company for lifting crude oil from Haripur oil field. Twelve persons have been arrested in connection with the incident.

Student Boycott To Mourn Chittagong Deaths

BK271304 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, students today boycotted the educational institutions to mourn the death of those killed in Sunday's [24 January] police firing on an antigovernment procession in Chittagong. Wearing black badges, they marched silently through the main roads of Dhaka in a long procession. The main opposition parties have launched a 4-day mourning program from today.

Ershad Returns From Rome Visit 28 Jan

*BK280746 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 28 Jan 88*

[Excerpts] President Ershad returned to Dhaka this morning at the end of his 3-day visit to Rome. Vice President Nurul Islam received him at the Zia International Airport. Prime Minister Mizranur Rahman Chowdhury, ministers, chiefs of staff of Army and Navy, diplomats, and high civil and military officials were also present. [passage omitted] Agriculture Minister A. Mahbubuzzaman and Deputy Foreign Minister Wajid Ali Khan Punny also returned with the president. [passage omitted]

Comoros Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

*BK281559 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Jan 88*

[Text] Foreign Minister of Comoros Islands, Said Madi Kafe, arrived in Dhaka today on a 3-day official visit to Bangladesh. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said this is a good-will visit to further strengthen friendly relations between the two countries. Mr Kafe said he will discuss with his Bangladesh counterpart matters of common interest, including issues of bilateral cooperation. He said both the countries are members of the Nonaligned Movement and Organization of Islamic Conference. They are working in concert in international forums for promotion of world peace and stability. In the afternoon, the Comoros foreign minister laid floral wreaths at the Jatiya Shaheed Smriti Shaudha [National Martyrs Memorial] at Savar.

India

Ramachandran Wins Vote; Police Charge Assembly

*BK281339 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 28 Jan 88*

[Text] Mrs Janaki Ramachandran's AIADMK government has won a vote of confidence on a day marked by violence, unprecedented lathi [baton] charge, adjournments, expulsions, and abstentions in the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

Almost the entire opposition was absent when the motion came up for voting. According to the speaker, Mr P.H. Pandian, 99 members voted in favor and 8 against. All the 98 members of the Janaki group and 1 member of the All-India Forward Bloc voted in favor of the motion. One Janata MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] and two Muslim League members remained neutral. The motion was moved by the leader of the House and the local administration minister, Mr R.M. Veerappan.

When the House reassembled at 1500, it plunged into unprecedented violence, with police making a lathi charge on legislators inside the House. Several MLA's reportedly sustained injuries and were bleeding. There were also clashes between the ruling AIADMK group MLA's and opposition members. Paper weights, microphones, and other items were used as missiles. One of them hit the speaker, Mr Pandian. There was a scuffle for the speaker's chair between Mr Pandian and Mr S. Sivaraman of the Congress-I, who was earlier elected speaker by the opposition and the Jayalalita group in the absence of Mr Pandian and the ruling AIADMK members. When the House quietened after the incidents, the speaker announced the disqualification of 27 members of the Jayalalita group under the anti-defection law. He made the announcement before taking up the confidence motion. The speaker had earlier disqualified six former ministers. With this, all the 33 MLA's supporting the Jayalalita faction now stand disqualified.

Pandemonium broke out in the Assembly soon after it began the day's session for the trial of strength. The House was adjourned twice. It was first adjourned till 1200 noon when pandemonium broke after the speaker announced that he was deferring the House because five Congress-I members had resigned. He said the members told him over the phone that they were resigning in protest against the party whip asking the members to vote against Mrs Ramachandran.

When the House met again after 12 noon, the speaker announced the disqualification of the six ministers belonging to the Jayalalita group and adjourned the House till 1500. Tempers ran high and fisticuffs followed as the speaker left the House immediately after the announcement. There was a free for all and missiles flew in all directions. Members of the Janaki group also left the House when the opposition members started occupying the podium of the House. Members belonging to Congress-I, the Jayalalita faction, the DMK, the CPI, the CPI-M, and independents later elected Mr Sivaraman as the speaker. They passed two resolutions—one removing Mr Pandian from the speakership and the other expressing no confidence in Mrs Ramachandran's ministry. Later, the opposition MLA's belonging to the Congress-I, CPI-M, CPI, and the Jayalalita faction went to meet the governor, Mr S.L. Khurana.

The Assembly, which witnessed unprecedented scenes today, will now meet on Monday.

Meanwhile, the Congress-I has demanded fresh assembly elections in Tamil Nadu for political stability. In a statement in New Delhi this afternoon, the party general secretary, Mr K.N. Singh, said this is the only choice since unity between the two factions of the AIADMK for political continuity proved illusive. He said the Congress-I will use its legislative strength to vote against the continuance of the Janaki government.

Speaking to newsmen, Mr Singh said his party MLA's have demanded a judicial inquiry into the whole episode in the Tamil Nadu today by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court.

Concern for Tamil Nadu

BK281555 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] The center has expressed concern over the latest situation in Tamil Nadu. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, and the minister of state, Mr Chidambaram, held emergency meetings in New Delhi to review the developments. The state governor, Mr Khurana, was contacted on telephone and requested to provide protection to all MLA's against any possible attack by unruly elements.

The center also expressed serious concern over the assault on MLA's and entry of police inside the Assembly.

Opposition Demands Dismissal

BK290412 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, the Congress-I and the AIADMK Jayalalitha faction have demanded dismissal of the Janaki Ramachandran government. The MLA's of both the parties met the state governor, Mr Khurana, in Madras yesterday evening and submitted two separate memoranda. They also demanded dissolution of the State Assembly and judicial enquiry by a Supreme Court judge into yesterday's incidents in the House. The chief minister, Mrs Janaki Ramachandran, also met the governor last night. She was accompanied by her cabinet colleagues and the speaker, Mr Pandian. She later told newsmen that they have apprised the governor of yesterday's incidents in the Assembly. Mrs Ramachandran said she was disappointed over what she called letting down by the Congress-I by not extending support to her government at the last minute.

As already reported, the center has expressed concern over the latest situation in Tamil Nadu. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, and the minister of state, Mr Chidambaram, held emergency meetings in New Delhi to review the developments. The state governor, Mr Khurana, was contacted over the telephone and requested to provide protection to all MLA's.

Gandhi Says Tripura Insurgency To Be 'Crushed'

BK290850 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said the insurgency in Tripura will be crushed. Addressing a press conference in Agartala this morning, he made it clear that there will be no talks with the TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists. Mr Gandhi said the government will deal with them sternly. Replying to a question, the prime minister said that he has had a meeting with the Army commanders yesterday about the disturbed areas in the state. He said the Army commanders feel that the movement of the security forces is restricted because of the declaration of certain areas as disturbed.

Referring to the Darjeeling Hill areas problem, Mr Gandhi said it is essentially a state issue and there is no hindrance on the part of the center to help solve it amicably. He charged the West Bengal government with reluctance to solve the problem.

Later, addressing a rally at Sonamura, West Tripura, Mr Gandhi accused the Tripura government of keeping alive the insurgency problem. Mr Gandhi also said as the state government failed to submit viable project reports some gas based units could not be taken up.

Hindus Attack TV Center To Protest Program

BK291104 Hong Kong AFP in English 1044 GMT
29 Jan 88

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 29 (AFP)—Hindu protesters stormed India's state-run television headquarters here Friday in protest at a programme about the sub-continent's partition when countless thousands were massacred.

Scores of protesters stoned the heavily-guarded complex, demolished a wall and fought pitched battles with policemen to press for a ban on the broadcast of the serial called "Tamas" (Darkness) on Saturday, witnesses said.

Police used batons, sent in mounted police and briefly arrested about 3,000 demonstrators from the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and two Hindu revivalist groups, the Shiv Shakti (Shiva's Power) and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Organisation), after they broke through police cordons.

Protesters shouted they would burn down the Doordarshan television complex if the fourth part of "Tamas" is broadcast on Saturday, witnesses said.

Demonstrators pulled down metal fencing, demolished a concrete wall, smashed the main signboards and then lay down when police tried to arrest them.

Ten protestors were injured in the hour-long battle and police also hit four photographers with batons, leaving one with a bloody mouth.

The three Hindu groups joined forces to try to stop the "Tamas" broadcast after Bombay's High Court last week ruled out a ban and described the series as history which could not be wished away. It depicts the lives of ordinary people amid the bloodshed unleashed during partition which created Moslem Pakistan in 1947.

The powerful rightist Hindu Shiv Sena (Shiva's Army) in western Maharashtara State has launched similar protest rallies in Bombay saying "Tamas" could spark off Hindu-Moslem riots in India.

Hindu organisations began protesting against the serial after Doordarshan broadcast the first three parts of "Tamas", including scenes showing members of the ultra-Hindu Rashtriya Savayamsevak Sangh (RSS) attacking Moslems.

The World Hindu Organisation has also threatened to picket television centres in eight northern states if the remaining three parts are shown.

West Bengal Chief Rejects Gurkha Leader Demand

BK290408 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, has refused to accept the fresh demands submitted by the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] leader, Mr Subhash Ghising, to the center 2 days ago. Mr Basu also declined to go to Delhi to have the final round of tripartite talks on Darjeeling issue as demanded by Mr Ghising. Talking to newsmen at Writer's Building yesterday evening, Mr Basu said the GNLF leader has again gone back on what was decided at the recent Delhi meeting. He said Mr Ghising's latest stand has put the situation in complete confusion. The chief minister indicated that he is likely to meet the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, tomorrow in New Delhi.

Meanwhile, the ruling left front has recommended the state government to go ahead with the formation of the autonomous hill council in Darjeeling. The chairman of the Left Front Committee, Mr Saroj Mukherji, said that the bill to this effect will be brought in the next session of the State Assembly.

As already reported, Mr Subhash Ghising said he would attend next week's tripartite meeting in Calcutta if the center so desires, but added that he would again go to New Delhi before the meeting for some clarifications on the formation of the proposed hill council.

Policeman Killed by Punjab 'Terrorists' 29 Jan

BK290826 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] In Punjab, a police head constable was shot dead and an assistant subinspector was seriously injured by terrorists in Rampurapull in Bhatinda District this morning. The victims were standing outside a police post when two terrorists fired at them.

'Extremists' Kill 1, Injure 1 in Tripura

BK280859 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists killed one person and injured another at Machuria near Kamalpur police station of the north district of Tripura last night.

Meanwhile, in a clash between Congress-I and CPI-M workers, two persons were killed and nine injured in the south district. The injured included two policemen.

PATRIOT Interviews CPI Leader Farooqi

BK221557 Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Jan 88 p 4

[Text] "It seems the U.S. Government is exploiting the weaknesses of the Rajiv Gandhi government in internal matters to blackmail and pressurise."

The observation came from CPI National Council Secretary M. Farooqi during an interview with PATRIOT.

The Communist leader also held that, "of late, the Rajiv Gandhi Government has shown some weakness in its anti-imperialist foreign policy positions."

While noting that the Government "has kept mum over the increased military presence of the U.S. and other imperialist powers in the Gulf", he recalled that the Prime Minister "has given a good-conduct certificate to the U.S. Administration that the CIA is not carrying out any operations in India", and that there has been "some promise of a supercomputer to India by the U.S."

"That seems to have paved the way for some kind of cooperation between the two countries in defence matters. This is a negative development."

Mr Farooqi prefaced his answers to the question with the statement: "Our party has assessed that the Rajiv Gandhi government is broadly following India's foreign policy of anti-imperialism, peace, nonalignment, friendship with the Soviet Union and the other Socialist countries and support to progressive regimes in the Third World. However, there have been sometimes, and on some questions, deviations from these positions, which our party has not hesitated to criticise. This is the general statement we would like to make before we examine how this Government has handled the various issues that came up in the last three years.".

Following is the text of the interview:

[PATRIOT] How would you assess the progress over the last three years in the pursuit of the government's declared policy of improving and normalising relations with the neighbours, in particular—a. Pakistan b. Bangladesh c. China?

[Farooqi] As is known, India has been having serious problems in its relations with Pakistan and China and, to a lesser extent, with Bangladesh.

The establishment of the SAARC is a significant step forward to build up good-neighbourly relations among the countries of this region, through economic and cultural cooperation in the first stage. The grouping has yet to acquire the kind of momentum that would be necessary to build up stable relationship. However, a good beginning has been made and India's contribution in this respect is noteworthy.

But it should not be left at that. We would like India, as the biggest and most advanced country of the region, to adopt a dynamic approach to improve relations with neighbours. It is particularly necessary in regard to our relations with Pakistan for obvious reasons. We should take bold initiatives to this end. The imperialists are interested in aggravating our relations with Pakistan. We should defeat the imperialists' game. Unfortunately, we are not doing enough to this end.

It is a good thing that there has been some progress in solving our bilateral problems with Bangladesh, e.g. the river waters project and the Chakma problem.

As to our relations with China, it seems the government has now taken the decision to solve the border problem at the political level. We consider that to be a correct approach. It was a wise thing for the Government not to have reacted over the recent events in Tibet. After all, Tibet is China's internal problem.

[PATRIOT] How, in your opinion, have the peace accord with Sri Lanka and the IPKF operations in the island served the interests and the image of the country in international affairs?

[Farooqi] The CPI has supported the accord signed between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lanka President Jayewardene to resolve the problem of Tamils of Sri Lanka. If the LTTE had behaved properly that would have facilitated solution to the problem. By their behaviour the Tamil Tigers (LTTE) are trying to scuttle the accord. This is going against their own interests. The IPKF has been forced into an unfortunate position by the behaviour of the LTTE.

In regard to the formation of the provincial councils in the North and East of Sri Lanka and their powers, the Jayawardene government is dragging its feet. This is against the spirit of the accord.

Our party wants honest implementation of the accord. It needs to be noted that the Communist Party of Sri Lanka has also supported the accord and has, like us, urged its implementation.

The accord has been welcomed by the anti-imperialist forces the world over as it defuses tension between two neighbouring countries who are also in the Nonaligned Movement. It frustrates the aggressive designs of imperialism in this part of the world.

We think the anti-imperialist forces also understand why the IPKF has been forced to carry out military operations. After all, that has become necessary to ensure implementation of the accord. It may be a painful process. But it cannot be helped.

Our party does not appreciate the negative position taken by some of our opposition parties in regard to the accord and the subsequent developments.

[PATRIOT] What, in your opinion, have been the major developments influencing the country's relations with the USSR and the US? Do you perceive major shifts in India's foreign policy framework?

[Farooqi] The exchange of visits between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the one hand and CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and Soviet Prime Minister Ryzhkov, the Delhi Declaration signed by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev, new agreements between the two countries to further strengthen economic and cultural cooperation, Soviet help for our defence, the Indian Festival in the USSR and the Soviet Festival in India—these are some of the important landmarks in the ongoing process of Indo-Soviet relations.

India has supported the various initiatives of the Soviet Union in regard to nuclear disarmament and for a ban on tests. India's initiative in regard to the Delhi Six is another important development.

Indo-Soviet friendship is a significant factor in the struggle for world peace and that is why all men of goodwill everywhere welcome this friendship.

The US Administration on the other hand has followed a policy of hostility towards India. It continues to supply the Pakistani military dictatorship with sophisticated weaponry which can only be used for offensive purposes against India. It helps Pakistani authorities, directly and indirectly, in their effort to acquire nuclear weapon making capacity.

The US Administration has rejected the various proposals of the Delhi Six in regard to peace, disarmament and halting of nuclear tests.

However, of late, the Rajiv Gandhi government has shown some weakness in its anti-imperialist foreign policy positions. It has kept mum over the increased military presence of the US and other imperialists powers in the Gulf, which has aggravated the situation in that region.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has given a good-conduct certificate to the US Administration that the CIA is not carrying out any operations in India. There has been some promise of a supercomputer to India by the US.

That seems to have paved the way for some kind of cooperation between the two countries in defence matters. This is a negative development.

However, we do not think that any major shifts are taking place in India's foreign policy framework.

It seems the US is exploiting the weaknesses of the Rajiv Gandhi government in internal matters to blackmail and pressurise. Hence the need for vigilance.

[PATRIOT] Has India's role in the Nonaligned Movement, in your opinion, been strengthened in this period?

[Farooqi] India is the biggest country in the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) and it is important for the world that India continues to take anti-imperialist positions. Generally speaking, India has not deviated from it during the last three years. Examples: South Africa, Kampuchea, Afghanistan. From that point of view India is respected in the nonaligned and Socialist countries.

But much more than this is expected from India—a more vigorous anti-imperialist foreign policy, more initiatives in regard to problems affecting the Third World countries (International Economic Order) for instance. India should have taken bold initiatives to curb the military presence of the US and other imperialist forces in the Gulf region. That kind of dynamism is missing in India's foreign policy position.

[PATRIOT] How do you assess India's initiatives in the cause of world peace and disarmament?

[Farooqi] As mentioned earlier, India has taken initiatives for peace and disarmament through the NAM, the Delhi Six and the Delhi Declaration. However, much more than this needs to be Indian Ocean, the Gulf region, etc. [sentence as published]

It will be good if India concentrates on the subcontinent, the Indian Ocean (as a zone of peace), the Gulf region and the Middle East. This is a crucial area for safeguarding peace in the Afro-Asian region, in the world.

Burma Seeks To Buy Industrial Equipment

BK290414 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Burma wants to buy plant and equipment from India in several industrial sectors, including the computer software, newsprint production, railway coaches and wagons, and boilers. The Burmese minister for trade, U Khin Maung Gyi, said in New Delhi that the procurement will be against the soft loan made available by the Indian Government. Addressing a function organized by the Confederation of Engineering Industry, the Burmese minister said that India is also in a position to provide feasibility studies and consultancy services in several basic sectors of industry.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks at Friday Prayers

LD291320 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] We begin our news report today with the remarks made by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the Friday prayers ceremony in Tehran. The event was attended by various sectors of the population and foreign guests here for the celebrations of the 10 Days of Dawn.

In his sermons today, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, inspired by the approach of the glorious 10 Days of Dawn, referred to the spiritual and material achievements of Iran's Islamic revolution, declaring:

Mankind must tolerate a great deal of pain, make efforts, and offer its life and material wealth to achieve its divine, humanitarian, and just aspirations. The need for steadfastness lies at the root of all this, and the Iranian nation has truly given a fine display of this quality. Today the world sees that this nation is ready to sacrifice lives to attain its just goals.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The Iranian people have moved toward self-sufficiency in economic, military, political, and cultural terms. Once all the noise has died down, the world will know that in one corner of the world, a strong and powerful society has come into being, one that can serve as a model for all societies in pursuit of freedom. The Majlis speaker explained: If the fundamental axis is the achievement of the hopes and goals of the Islamic nations, that axis will never be defeated. He continued: Iran, which until 10 years ago served as a milk cow for colonialism, has today become a calculating [hesabgar] and militant force, which has confronted the plunderers and brought them to trial.

At this point, he turned to the struggles and Islamic uprising of the people of Palestine, saying: The events taking place today in Palestine and Lebanon, and in Morroco, Tunisia, Egypt, and many other parts of the world, have undoubtedly been influenced by our national movement. Although we have had no direct role in these actions, those ruling over the oppressed and arisen people claim that Iran had a hand in these movements among their people. The Majlis speaker pointed out: The admissions of the arrogant powers concerning the struggles of the Muslim people of Palestine, struggles which have sprung from Islam and the mosques, are the same as the export of the Islamic revolution, which we expounded. However, they think the revolution has been tamed [mahar]. Today, in occupied Palestine, girls in scarves and young Palestinian Muslims are coming out into the streets from their mosques to confront the cruel-hearted, killer soldiers of the Israeli regime. These people are doing the same thing that the people of Iran did 10 years ago in the streets of Iranian cities. We hope that no one will be able to deceive them with promises or optimistic expectations from conferences.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council then referred to the disgraceful failure of the plans of the United States and NATO in the Persian Gulf. He stated: The failure that befell the United States and its satellites in the Persian Gulf, as well as the abjectness inflicted on the Western powers, who are today getting out of this great waterway in craven disgrace, leaving behind the frightened hearts of the rich men of the region, are all products of the resistance and might of the Iranian nation.

Continuing his remarks, the speaker described the "Zafar-5" and "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations and their impact on the future of the war. Praising the coordinated command for the preparation of forces, supplies, and facilities, and hailing the great endurance of hardship in these actions, he noted: In the course of these operations, the warriors of Islam proved their ability to mislead the espionage power of global arrogance and the arrogance of the media [estekbar-e khabargiri].

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council condemned the silence of the media over the implications of the victory scored by the fighters of Islam in the "Zafar-5" and "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations. He declared: How isolated the rulers of a country must be from their own people to hide such operations from them. The Iraqi regime does not have the courage to tell its own people about this important event. During these actions, which were our least costly, the Iraqi regime lost 130 square km of its best military terrain, had 1,000 of its men captured and another 4,000-5,000 killed, and lost a large quantity of military hardware. Yet it tells its own people that nothing happened. This is a sign of how rotten the Iraqi regime has become, for in a world filled with radio waves, the Iraqi people will come to know about the defeat of the Ba'thist Iraqi Army. Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani highlighted the readiness of our fighters in every part of the front. Then, addressing the UN Security Council, Saddam's supporters, the Iraqi Armed Forces, especially the troops, and the rich men of the Persian Gulf, he emphasized: Stop being stubborn and hand over this aggressor to the court of justice so that, through its punishment, the humble Muslim people of Iran may gain their rights and the oppressed people of Iraq their liberty. By uprooting evil from this region, we can all live together in peace and prosperity.

Foreign Minister Concludes European Tour

Stops Over in Rome

LD290833 Tehran IRNA in English 0827 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Rome, Jan 29, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, on his way back home from Poland, had a short stop-over in Rome Thursday night where he held talks with his Italian counterpart Giulio Andreotti on the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and bilateral relations.

During the one hour private meeting, Velayati stressed that if the Security Council was really after establishing peace in the region, it could easily achieve this goal by identifying the Iraqi regime as the aggressor party in the Iraq-Iran war. "This would be a positive trend towards restoration of tranquility in the region," he told Andreotti.

Velayati also said the independent members of the Security Council by taking a just stance, could play a positive role in identifying Iraq as the aggressor.

Emphasizing on Iran's firm belief in safe navigation in the regional waters, Velayati reiterated that the Islamic Republic is strongly opposed to the presence of foreign forces in these waters.

Reiterating his earlier position that the Baghdad regime had started the war against Iran, the Italian foreign minister also pointed to the idea of setting up of an international committee to investigate the matter.

The two sides also reviewed the situation in the critical points of the world, particularly in Afghanistan.

Andreotti said although Iran was not a superpower, but as the strongest political power in the region it could play a very effective role in the current developments in Afghanistan. The fundamental role played of the Afghan mujahidin in this regard was also stressed upon by the two sides.

Before meeting Andreotti, Velayati participated at a news conference and answered a number of questions posed by foreign reporters.

On the Security Council Resolution 598, he said Iran approves of the resolution as an 'acceptable framework' but stressed that the first step towards its implementation was the identification of the aggressor (Iraq). He reiterated that Iran was ready to continue talks with the U.N. secretary general Javier Perez de Cuellar in all areas.

Velayati said foreign troops stationed in the region will be forced to withdraw from the Persian Gulf sooner or later because their presence has only added to the tension. "We had predicted that this presence is useless and the world is now witnessing we were right in our prediction," he said.

Asked whether Iran would hold talks with its neighbours beyond the Security Council framework on the Iraqi imposed war, he replied that the Islamic Republic enjoys good relations with some Arab states in the region. He said talks were presently underway between Tehran and (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council states which he said have produced positive results so far.

The foreign minister said Iran believes it can have friendly ties with its Arab neighbours without necessarily accepting their wrong views.

On normalisation of relations with France, he said some measures have been taken to this end but there are still some minor obstacles on this way.

In response to another question, Velayati denied Iran's intervention in the issue of foreign hostages in general and hoped the problem would be solved in a humanitarian manner.

In related news, Velayati returned to Tehran Friday morning and was welcomed by ambassadors of Italy, Poland and West Germany to the Islamic Republic.

He visited Poland on a three-day official visit and held talks with ranking Polish officials, including its president, prime minister, parliament speaker and foreign minister.

Velayati also had stop-overs in Belgrade (on his way to Warsaw) and Frankfurt (on his way back home) where he held talks with Yugoslav and West German officials on bilateral ties and international issues.

Velayati, speaking to reporters upon his arrival in Tehran, said a note of understanding had been signed between Iran and Poland in Warsaw in conclusion of the talks. He said no joint communique had been issued.

Returns to Tehran

NC290622 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Mr Velayati, our foreign minister, returned to Tehran this morning. He had led a high-ranking delegation on a visit to Poland at the official invitation of the Polish foreign minister. On his way back, the foreign minister made brief stopovers in Yugoslavia, the FRG, and Italy and met and talked with the foreign ministers of these three countries.

In an interview with our correspondent about the outcome of his talks with Polish officials, Mr Velayati said: Preliminary discussions were held between the members of our delegation and Polish officials with regard to the joint Iranian-Polish committee, which is to meet in Warsaw in the near future. We also had talks with the Council of State chairman, the Sejm marshal, and the chairman of the Council of Ministers of Poland. The Sejm marshal and the chairman of the Council of Ministers invited our Majlis speaker and prime minister to visit their country.

Commenting on his meetings with the foreign ministers of Yugoslavia, the FRG, and Italy, Mr Velayati stated: In view of the cooperation between Iran and Yugoslavia in the Nonaligned Movement, the future of this movement, as well as the next Nonaligned summit, were reviewed. He added: During the delegation's stopover in the FRG and Italy, discussions were held with Mr Genscher and Mr Andreotti with regard to relations and cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and these two countries in the UN Security Council. He reported: During the meeting with Mr Andreotti, we discussed bilateral relations, the upcoming joint economic committee meeting, and the visit which the Italian foreign minister is to pay to Tehran. Views were also exchanged on important issues pertaining to the Persian Gulf region, the Security Council, and Afghanistan.

Deputy Foreign Minister Visits Thailand

For Bangkok and Tehran media coverage of the visit to Thailand of a delegation led by Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister for international and economic affairs, including his talks with the Thai foreign and commerce ministers, see the Thailand section of the 28 January East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Soviet Economic Delegation Arrives for Talks

LD281549 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—A Soviet economic delegation arrived here Thursday afternoon to take part in the preliminary meeting of the 11th joint economic session between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR, scheduled to be held in Moscow in February.

The talks between the Soviet delegation and Iranian officials will start from Saturday and will end next Thursday.

Relief Committee Assists Lebanese Villagers

LD281759 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 28, IRNA—The Relief Committee of Imam Khomeyni here gave financial assistance and distributed food and fuel among inhabitants of at least ten southern villages liberated by Lebanese Muslims.

The assistance to other villages in deprived southern Lebanon will continue according to a scheduled program.

To facilitate its work the relief committee has opened a center in the southern Beirut suburb of Hayy al-Karama in order to reach 10,000 oppressed villagers.

On the opening ceremony of the relief centre Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah said aid is given to the Lebanese people within the framework of assisting the oppressed Muslim villagers.

Nasrallah, describing the assistance given by the Islamic Republic of Iran as 'unique and very effective' said that helping the oppressed would enable Lebanese Muslims to fight the U.S. and its agents in the region because they are the root cause of hunger and the economic crisis currently plaguing Lebanon.

Paper Urges 'Show of Anger' Against U.S. Forces

*PM281453 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
23 Jan 88 pp 1-2*

[Unattributed editorial: "America's Presence in the Persian Gulf Is Intolerable"]

[Text] There are those who believe America's military presence in the Persian Gulf is pointless as a result of geostrategic factors. Thus, they see these forces as having no mission beyond escorting tankers. They claim that, as soon as the tanker war subsides, the huge costs involved will prompt the Americans to leave the region.

There are still others who hold a more interesting view, claiming that, in fact, the American presence in the Persian Gulf is nothing new, and that it was there before. Britain was forced to leave the countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf 17 or 18 years ago. The United States filled the vacuum by building several bases and deploying some troops and warships. Thus, they argue that the Americans have only been trying to strengthen their bases in the past few months. Such people allege that the recent growth in the Americans' operational capability and military strength is a short-term development, not a long-term, strategic one.

As far as these two schools of thought are concerned, you hardly need a complex analysis to explain the American presence in the Persian Gulf, and the danger today is no greater than it was before.

There is also a third theory, which claims that the Americans are using a new strategy in the area and that the presence of U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf is a turning point in the implementation of this new strategy, which is designed to control the trend of political events in the region.

Despite the bitter experience of Vietnam and contrary to the doctrine advising the United States not to employ its military abroad, the Americans have found the use of their armed forces to be the only effective way to control events in the region. Escorting a few oil tankers was the sole avenue they could find to hide their true intentions.

In fact, every action and program within this new American strategy is aimed at the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic. The whole idea of an American presence in the Persian Gulf, which is Iran's backyard, is highly dangerous. There are reports of close cooperation between American troops and the Iraqi Ba'thist regime right now. America's new strategy seeks to prevent Iran from becoming the sole decisive power in the Persian Gulf.

In any case, the United States will examine three important points before considering the withdrawal of its troops from the Persian Gulf. The first is to have the Islamic revolution remain within Iran's borders and ensure that it does not flood the region in the shape of a new ideology or energy capable of causing great change. Therefore, it must be made a cliche and a secondary force outside Iran's borders. The second point is to have the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz lose their international and strategic importance in terms of supplying oil and transporting goods. Overland shipment should replace seaborne commerce. The third point is to prevent the Russians from gaining a foothold in the warm waters of the Persian Gulf, even as part of a multinational force under UN control, for once there, they will never leave.

As such, Washington has sufficient reason and intention to safeguard its own interests and those of its regional lackeys, and does not choose to seek new solutions. For instance, in relation to the second point mentioned above, the United States has come upon the idea that energy consumption in the West is on the rise, and that overland pipelines will not have the capacity to provide adequate fuel. Thus, the role of the Strait of Hormuz will increase in importance.

However, the policies invented by Western propaganda from time to time to score psychological and political points should not be taken seriously. Not only will the Americans not pull out, they are actually studying the possibility of building larger bases on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf.

In contrast, existing conditions offer the Islamic revolution the perfect chance to set forth its logic and slogans for political organization and for basic and realistic relations in the region. The Islamic Republic should devote more of its political propaganda and diplomatic efforts to this question. In every way and in every place, we must ask for the quickest possible withdrawal of the American troops, as their very presence is an act of aggression. We must employ all our international resources and every international organization that we have claimed was useful for expressing our views in an effective way in this holy struggle. We must inform the international public, especially that of the Muslim countries and the Third World, about the Islamic Republic's logic concerning the assignment of regional security to the countries of the region, and the intolerable dangers posed by America's aggressive presence.

We must understand that the Americans have not come to attend a party, so they will not leave easily. The United States will not go except under growing political and psychological pressure. Iran's brave and heroic people will greet the anniversary of their revolution while the forces of their number one enemy are in the region. This opportunity gives us the chance to rise up once and for all against this aggressive presence and to celebrate the 10 Days of Dawn with an all-out show of anger against the great satan.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,095

LD281516 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—The Islamic Republic Air Force continued its reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman Wednesday in line with international regulations, providing effective air cover for the Navy and reconnoitering positions of foreign vessels in the region, said a military communique here Thursday.

The 3095th Joint Staff Communique said that Iran's Muslim combatants heavily shelled Iraqi positions, supply routes and troop concentration sites throughout the battlefields yesterday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy.

In Sar Dasht, northwestern sector, Iranian artillery fire suppressed activities of Iraqi tanks and checked movement of enemy motorized columns Wednesday.

In the western fronts, activities of Iraqi patrols were suppressed and movement of heavy enemy engineering vehicles in Qasr-e Shirin was checked by Iranian artillery fire yesterday as a result of which five enemy gun emplacements and observation posts were destroyed.

Two Iraqi patrol convoys attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in 'Eyn Khvosh, southern sector, Wednesday suffered several casualties and were forced to flee when hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian artillery fire checked activities of Iraqi tanks in Hoseyniyeh and west of Jofeyr, southern fronts, and enemy engineering operations in Nahr-e 'Anbar, western sector, yesterday, inflicting several casualties and losses on the enemy, concluded the communique.

Battalion 'Wiped Out'

LD281756 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Ilam, Jan. 28, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants attacked Iraqi positions west of Qalavizan [name as received] Heights around Mehran, western sector, early Thursday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy.

During the infiltration operations code-named "Ya Husayn" (A.S.), Iranian combatants including tribesmen routed the Iraqi Ba'thist troops stationed atop the said heights overlooking the eastern Iraqi towns of Badrah, Zurbatiyah and Jassan.

The 2nd Battalion of Iraqi Brigade 6 of the 2nd Infantry Division of the 1st Corps was wiped out and 10 of its personnel captured by the heroic Muslim combatants who later returned safely to bases.

Guards Corps Statement

LD291110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] The General Staff of the three branches of the IRGC has issued a statement announcing:

Yesterday, the fighters of Islam launched a series of daring and destructive operations in the (Qalavizan) Heights, attacking the forces of the Iraqi Zionist regime in the western part of Iraq's Mehran region. During this destructive action, the powerful warriors of Islam overcame a number of obstacles and minefields and penetrated the enemy's defensive lines.

They dealt several heavy blows to a battalion from the Iraqi regime's army. An enemy company was completely destroyed, and a large number of enemy troops were either killed or wounded. Several Iraqi mercenaries were captured by the fighters of Islam, including a company command officer. A quantity of armor and other hardware belonging to the Zionist regime was destroyed by the heavy fire of the forces of Islam.

Pakistan

UN's Cordovez Continues Talks With Officials

BK281531 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, is currently on a visit to Islamabad and Kabul. He continued his talks with senior Pakistani officials in Islamabad today in a bid to settle all unresolved issues before the conclusion of the proposed Geneva agreement.

The discussions covered all aspects of the Afghan problem, including the formation of a broad-based interim government and the question of a phased Soviet troop withdrawal. According to reports, Cordovez had talks with his aides as well, examining possible negotiations with other concerned parties, especially the leaders of the Afghan mujahidin.

Discusses Issue With Ziaul Haq

BK290338 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi yesterday evening [28 January] and held a detailed discussion with him on the issues to be settled with regard to Afghanistan. Cordovez lauded Pakistan's support for the efforts being made for a peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan problem. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani, the foreign secretary, and Pakistan's permanent representative at the United Nations were also present at these talks.

Junejo on Reasons for Nuclear Power Program

BK280911 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has announced that the petroleum policy has been worked out in broad outline and will be announced shortly. He was inaugurating an international symposium on the importance of petroleum as an energy resource for the future in Islamabad this morning.

The prime minister said the country's population is increasing rapidly and people's minimum requirement of energy has to be provided for. Assuming a modest economic growth rate and an expected population of 150 million by the year 2000, Pakistan would need about 20,000 megawatt of installed capacity as compared to 6,000 megawatt available now. To meet this projected demand, he said, we are building dams and emphasizing the development of coal and power generation, even though, he pointed out, there will be a gap of over 8,000 megawatt. He explained that we either have to import oil or turn to nuclear power for bridging this gap. Even at the current low prices of oil, he said, we find that the costs of nuclear power generation are competitive with those of power from an oil-fired station. Experts agree that this (?slump) in the oil market is a transitory phenomenon and the oil prices will touch $25 a barrel by 1990. That, he emphasized, leaves Pakistan with no other option but return toward nuclear power. That is why, he said, Pakistan has developed a long-term nuclear power program.

India's Leasing Soviet Submarines Criticized

BK290915 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Ghani Erabi commentary]

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has rightly questioned the Indian motive behind acquiring nuclear submarines and the Soviet wisdom in supplying them. Other critics cite the moral duplicity of both in making the deal. Islamabad, which has scrupulously refrained from criticizing India's massive stockpile of conventional weapons in the name of self-defense, has challenged the acquisition of nuclear submarines as far exceeding the requirements of legitimate self-defense.

Nuclear submarines, essentially, are weapons of aggression. They can go anywhere, attack any target. They can hide deep in the ocean, venture far afield, and travel at high speed, say 25 to 30 knots per hour as against the 8 to 10 of the conventional subs. They don't have to call at a port to refuel or surface to recharge their batteries. They can stay under water for any length of time—for months together. The only limit is crew fatigue. To get over that, nuclear submarines of the type India has been furnished by the Soviets carry a crew of 100 to 150 as against the conventional crew of 40 to 45. These characteristics enable such submarines, identified as the Los Angeles class, to hide safely under the Arctic ice caps with their nuclear missiles awaiting Washington's or Moscow's signal to strike. They are vulnerable only when undergoing refit or repair in submarine pens or tied in harbor for crew relief.

The first of these nuclear submarines were leased out to India on the 5th of this month and according to INDIA TODAY, India might get four to six of them from the Soviet Union. Even without the nuclear submarines, India's Navy is the eighth largest in the world equipped with aircraft carriers, Sea King helicopters and Harrier aircraft, frigates, and destroyers capable of holding its own against all its neighbors put together. Now with the nuclear submarines, the Indian Ocean will be reduced to the status of an Indian lake.

The Soviet Union clearly is answerable for providing India the wherewithal with which to threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of not only its immediate neighbors but of all Indian ocean states, including Malaysia and Indonesia, Iran and Arabia, and countries lining Africa's eastern seaboard besides the island states dotting the sea. Above all, it will give a fillip to the nuclearization of the Indian Ocean, jeopardizing the safety of the world's largest concentration of human population. What makes it doubly ironic is the fact that the threat results from the deal between two countries making the loudest protestations about keeping South Asia and the Indian Ocean free of nuclear menace. India, which has been objecting even to nuclear-powered ships passing through the Indian Ocean, will now be permanently stationing nuclear submarines smack in the middle of it, and the Soviet Union, which has been threatening Pakistan with dire consequences even for seeking nuclear capability, is now itself handing over fully-operational nuclear reactors to a country that has neither signed the nonproliferation treaty nor is submitting itself to international safeguards. The Soviet lease out of nuclear submarines to India is a clear violation of their commitment to nuclear nonproliferation and is public confirmation of moral duplicity on the part of both.

Indian Citizenship for Hindus in Jammu Opposed

BK281558 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The Senate, which resumed its meetings this afternoon, has begun its deliberations on additional amendments to the Civil Service Bill of 1988. The modifications deal with qualifications for appointment to the post of high court judge. The National Assembly has already ratified the bill. [passage omitted]

The minister of state for defense said that the Indian Government and parliament have no power to issue orders regarding citizenship in [Indian] occupied Jammu and Kashmir or to enact legislation on it. He was replying to a debate on an adjournment motion moved by Prof Khurshid Ahmad in the Senate concerning the Indian Government's decision to grant citizenship to

Hindus living in the Jammu region since 1947. The minister of state recalled that under the Simla Agreement, Pakistan and India pledged to refrain from any action that might affect a just and peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue.

Rana Naim Mahmud said that the State of Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory, and that Pakistan has always highlighted the need for a peaceful resolution of the dispute in the spirit of relevant UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement. He said that the president and the prime minister have stated many times that Kashmir is quite dear to every Pakistani due to its religious and historical ties with the country. In addition to the sponsor, Javed Jabbar and Qazi Abdul Latif spoke on the motion, the discussion of which ended later.

Sri Lanka

LTTE 'Terrorists' Attack Police Station

BK280849 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0832 GMT 28 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 28 (LANKA PUWATH)—Three LTTE terrorists fired into the Kilinochchi police station in northern Sri Lanka by positioning themselves at the rear of the station in the early hours of yesterday morning, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

The firing took place between 0105 hours (local time) and 0130 hours (local time) yesterday.

The attack was effectively replused.

Indian troops cordoned off the area and began search operations.

A report from Kalutara states that the police raided the home of an ex-serviceman and recovered three guns and three rounds of live ammunition on Tuesday.

Police investigations are continuing.

Indian Spokesman Denies LTTE Killed 8 Soldiers

BK281121 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] An Indian spokesman in New Delhi yesterday denied claims by Tamil rebels that eight Indian soldiers were killed in an ambush in Mullaittivu. The LTTE announced that they had killed the eight soldiers in an attack on an Army patrol on Tuesday.

The spokesman further said that the strike called by the LTTE in the north and the east to protest India's Republic Day had evoked only mixed response, denying reports that life there had been brought to a virtual standstill. He said what is significant is that in the LTTE strongholds in the north, there was only partial response to the shutdown call. He added that Republic Day celebrations by Indian soldiers in the north were attended by prominent Tamil citizens and shops and schools were kept open in several areas. However, he pointed out that in the Batticaloa District, the LTTE succeeded in affecting normal activities by intimidating residents.

Paper Views Challenge Faced by Indian Force

BK280955 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 18 Jan 88 p 6

[Editorial: "Man-Eaters"]

[Text] Dog does not eat dog, they say. But our Tamil Tigers seem to relish the smell of Tamil blood; as much as they enjoy the death agonies of helpless Sinhala or Muslim victims.

A recent REUTER report recounted an LTTE attack on a TELO office at Puliyankulam in which the attackers left all those in the building dead. The LTTE, indeed, have fought a long battle to assert their supremacy over other northern rebels. Indeed, they have generally got the better of their rival groups in almost every exchange. Their record of lamp-post and other killings just shows how little respect they have for their kinsmen.

Now they appear to be planning a festive assault on Batticaloa where the larger sections of Tamils of the area on Friday were engaged in religious observances.

It is hardly surprising that the LTTE should show such disdain for any spiritual heritage. They, like other revolutionaries, believe that power flows from the barrel of a gun. But what they have still to discover is that muscle alone can never assure any organisation of sufficient wisdom, support or capacity to maintain an enduring social structure.

The LTTE, perhaps, have had their brief hour. But, today, they have alienated themselves from other separatist groups, from the Muslims of the east, from the Sinhala villagers of Ampara and those in the hamlets bordering the north.

They face a new division of Indian troops which brings the IPKF [Indian peacekeeping force] to around 45,000. No doubt, the Indian units must feel that their own prestige is at stake. They have, they stress, always employed the maximum restraint. No doubt also that theirs is a difficult task because the terrorists by night often assume the innocent garb of an honest farmer by day. Tiger by night, tame cat by day. But the bitter truth is that the LTTE, perhaps, have by one stratagem or another held down the Indian Army for a longer period than the Indian High Command could have expected.

The change of command over the Indian forces here, we have been told, represents a routine transfer. However that might be, the LTTE continue to be a dangerous force: reduced in strength, perhaps, but far from beaten, clearly.

The Indians, without doubt, have proved their superiority in open combat. But the menace of sly attacks remains. It will not be easy to eradicate. But the challenge that the IPKF faces could be the need to draw a clear, if delicate, distinction between maximum restraint towards civilians and softness towards the guerrillas themselves.

'Narco Terrorists' Increase Smuggling Activities

BK290725 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0700 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Colombo, Jan 29 (LANKA PUWATH)—Sri Lankan narco terrorists have recently heightened their heroin smuggling activities.

Interpol reports received by the Sri Lanka Narcotics Bureau state that the law enforcement authorities in West Germany and Switzerland have arrested four Sri Lankans on drug smuggling charges and seized 3.5 kilos of heroin with an international street value of 21.5 million U.S. dollars.

Director of the Sri Lankan Narcotics Bureau Donald Mendis told LANKA PUWATH that he had received a cable yesterday from Swiss law enforcement authorities that a Sri Lankan travelling on a false Mauritian passport was caught in possession of 1.9 kilos of heroin at (?the Zurich) airport a few days ago.

The contraband had been concealed in the false bottom of a suitcase.

The Swiss authorities had stated that the alleged smuggler was P. Sithamparanathan from Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka.

Last week the Narcotics Bureau in Colombo received a cable from West German law enforcement authorities that a German national and three Sri Lankans were arrested following the seizure of 1.6 kilos of heroin which was being smuggled out of a Sri Lanka owned ship in the port of Hamburg.

Sri Lanka's Narcotics Bureau chief told LANKA PUWATH that drugs law enforcement authorities in most West European countries had reported that Sri Lankan narco terrorism was still continuing on a large scale despite heightened vigilance and a large number of detections.